

APRIL 2022

# NEW EDINBURGH NEWS

[newedinburgh.ca](http://newedinburgh.ca)



Photo by Alexander McKenzie

A male mallard duck in a puddle in New Edinburgh Park this spring. Learn more about the community park clean-up day on p.13.

## Ottawa plays catch-up on green building standards

by Marion Siekierski

Global warming is the defining challenge of our lifetime. To have a chance of halting the temperature increase at 1.5°C, which is necessary to prevent the most devastating consequences, we need to drastically reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. That means replacing fossil fuels, such as natural gas for heating and cooling, and gasoline for mobility, with renewable energy sources.

Key transformations have to be set in motion this decade to transition our societies to net-zero and cities play a central role. Why? Because cities are responsible for more than 70 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions. Buildings – the way we heat and cool them – and transport are the biggest polluters. While carbon emissions from transport can be phased out relatively quickly with electric vehicles, buildings can lock in greenhouse gas emissions for decades. So, it is important to make sure we build right: ideally buildings should be equipped with access to renewable energy, be well insulated to reduce energy demand, and provide quick charging for electric vehicles at the very least. After all, the City declared a climate emergency in 2019 and set a goal that all new buildings from 2030 must achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions.

We all buy, sell, rent, or lease a home and the quality of our homes and their surroundings

have an important effect on our well-being. Good thing, then, that Ottawa is coming up with a green building standard, also known as the High-Performance Development Standard (HPDS). According to [engage.ottawa.ca](http://engage.ottawa.ca), it is meant to “advance sustainable and resilient design priorities by phasing in minimum performance measures for new developments.” While this standard cannot regulate heating and cooling equipment and insulation (that’s up to the provincial Building Code), it does set requirements for energy efficiency. It also defines various external elements that help make a community livable, such as tree planting, elements to counter urban heat islands, bike facilities, etc.

Unfortunately, the standard falls short. Not only is Ottawa shockingly late to the party – Toronto set its first Toronto Green Standard in 2010 – but Ottawa’s approach has significant gaps and shortcomings.

Most importantly, the standard applies to fewer than 50 per cent of expected dwellings to be built over the next 10 years. That’s because the standard relates only to buildings greater than 600m<sup>2</sup> and its energy efficiency requirements kick in only at 2,000m<sup>2</sup>. This leaves out the “missing middle”: the many small-to medium-sized multi-unit dwellings that will help the city achieve its intensification

Continued on page 14

## Ukraine: How did it come to this?

A former Kyiv resident reflects on Russian aggression, Ukrainian tenacity, and his hopes that Ukraine will emerge stronger.

By David Lawrence

“I can’t believe we lost Kyiv.”

It was 1993 in Samara, a city of about one million on the Volga River in Russia. I was a young volunteer in the U.S. Peace Corps, part of the first group sent to Russia. The young Russian woman I was speaking with spoke good English – a relief since I barely spoke Russian at the time. She was telling me about the collapse of the Soviet Union.

For her, it was painful. Like many Russians, she felt shame about “losing” the Cold War. The Soviets had been feared and respected; they had a powerful army and nuclear weapons. And the Soviet Union – dominated by Russia – ruled a multitude of different cultures and countries.

Suddenly, it was gone. Eastern European countries

bolted, joining NATO and the European Union. What does it tell you when your allies desert you the first chance they get? Nothing good.

And Kyiv, viewed by many Russians as the source of their civilization, had slipped away.

Fast forward 29 years. Today, Kyiv and other Ukrainian cities are under ferocious attack by Russian forces. Mariupol, a city on the Sea of Azov, lies in ruins. Kharkiv, Ukraine’s second-largest city, is under constant bombardment. Southern cities are also under attack, and the capital, Kyiv, is nearly surrounded.

The war affects me personally. In the 1990s, I worked in Ukraine for the World Bank Group and married a woman from Kyiv. My children grew up there. I have

many Ukrainian friends, family, and colleagues, most of whom have already fled the city for western Ukraine or Europe.

How did it come to this?

It comes down to one man: Vladimir Putin, who has ruled Russia since 1999. Over the years, he nurtured a twisted worldview in which Ukraine is not a real country. The West, he says, is plotting to keep Russia down, as evidenced by NATO’s expansion since the end of the Cold War. The Ukrainian government, he insists, is, in fact, a fascist junta under the control of the West.

Thanks to the Kremlin’s iron grip on the media, Russian brains have been marinated in this nonsense for years. The majority believe him and support the war.

Continued on page 6

## Celebrate our village history with new fall event: StreetFest

By Janet Uren

Nobody has had a lot of fun in these past two years, and as spring takes hold, most of us are anxious to be up and outdoors again, having a good time in the company of neighbours, family, and friends. Well, the Laurentian Chapter of the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire (IODE) has an idea.

In 2020 and 2021, after more than 100 years of supporting charitable causes, Laurentian Chapter IODE hit a pandemic-related roadblock in trying

to organize its famous House and Garden Tour. They have responded in 2022 with a new idea, one that will take place largely – or completely – outdoors.

StreetFest promises to be fun, fascinating and – best of all – COVID-proof. It will also support a good cause, as monies raised this year will go to support the Inuuqatigiit Centre for Inuit Children, Youth, and Families in Vanier.

The new event centres on history – the history of New Edinburgh in particular.

All over the city, hamlets and villages have been swept up, amalgamated into the larger whole, becoming neighbourhoods or suburbs. But New Edinburgh feels different. It has kept its “urban village,” character, a distinct and integrated community; an extraordinary survival both in terms of its heritage housing and community spirit.

Laurentian is the right organization to tell that story because the chapter itself has something of a history in

Continued on page 12

## What's the New Edinburgh Community Alliance?

NECA is the umbrella organization for all residents and community organizations in our neighbourhood. Every resident of New Edinburgh is automatically a member of NECA.

Its mandate is to develop and foster a sense of community among the residents; to research, develop positions and make representations to various levels of government on matters affecting the community; and to coordinate activities between organizations.

NECA's committees include Traffic and Safety, Heritage and Development, Beechwood Development, Park Vision and Environment and Climate Change. It also publishes this newspaper.

The NECA board meets nine times a year, normally on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. (no meetings in July, August or December). Its annual general meeting takes place in October.

Meetings are open to all New Edinburgh residents. Anyone wishing to make a presentation to the board should please contact Cindy Parkanyi in advance at [newedinburgh@outlook.com](mailto:newedinburgh@outlook.com).

Our next meetings will take place **Tuesday, Apr. 19, 7:30 p.m.** and **Tuesday May 17, 7:30 p.m.** Meetings are held virtually on Zoom. Contact [newedinburgh@outlook.com](mailto:newedinburgh@outlook.com) for details.

### Your NECA Representatives 2021-2022

Contact anyone below through [info@newedinburgh.ca](mailto:info@newedinburgh.ca)

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Sarah Anson-Cartwright

Ted Bennett **Treasurer**

Ray Boomgaardt

Katherine Hall **Friends of the Park**

Karen Squires **Friends of the Park**

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Jason Tavoularis **Traffic & Safety**

Cindy Parkanyi **President, NECA**

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[newedinburgh.ca](http://newedinburgh.ca)

## Looking to help the unhoused; keeping an eye on plans for Manor Park north and south



**Cindy Parkanyi**  
NECA President

Spring has sprung, COVID restrictions are lifting, and spirits are also lifting throughout the neighbourhood. We can now look forward to seeing neighbours and friends at a number of in-person community events that are being planned. First up will be the New Edinburgh/Stanley Park **Cleanup Day** on April 22 (see article on p. 13); next will be the July 1 **Chief Pinesi Day** as highlighted in the February edition of the *New Edinburgh News*; then there will be a new community-wide event, **New Edinburgh StreetFest**, on Sept. 10 (see article on p. 12). It will definitely be nice to see everyone in real life again!

The advent of spring also marks the beginning of construction season. In addition to planned road works for Stanley Avenue, Crichton Street and Springfield Road, there is the proverbial explosion of residential renovations and construction. If you see a notice for upcoming renovation or construction work, please let NECA's Heritage and Development Committee know by sending an email to [newedinburgh@outlook.com](mailto:newedinburgh@outlook.com).

Spring also brings a renewed need to combat the Spongy (Gypsy/LDD) moth infestation of our urban forest. See p. 4 to learn more about what we all can do to address this

issue.

The spring freshet also brings heavy water flows to the Rideau River. As a reminder, extreme caution should be exercised by everyone (especially those with children or pets) when near the local waterbodies.

### Helping with homelessness

There has been a lot of discussion at recent NECA Board meetings on the issue of homelessness and how we can address it. At the March 15 NECA meeting, local resident Lorna Bernbaum noted that the Family Homelessness Lab still needs volunteers. This local initiative is working to help over 300 families into homes. Contact Allan Martel to volunteer: [allanmartel@allanmartelconsulting.com](mailto:allanmartel@allanmartelconsulting.com) or 613-890-3651. (See *NEN's* February edition more details). Councillor Rawlson King also participated in the discussion and noted the March 17 public consultations on Ontario MPP Lucille Collard's private member's bill on affordable housing and homelessness, as well as the City's encampment policy that includes ongoing engagement with unhoused individuals.

### Manor Park Redevelopment

On March 24, the City's Planning Committee

approved a new secondary plan to guide proposed development in two specific areas of the Manor Park community — Manor Park North and Manor Park South — despite Councillor King's opposition and input from the Manor Park Community Association. The plan is to redevelop about 13 hectares of property over several decades, adding about 3,800 residential units, nearly 10,000 square metres of commercial space and more than 16,000 square metres of park space. Manor Park North, located mostly west of St. Laurent Boulevard and north of Hemlock Road, would be developed with low-rise and mid-rise buildings. Manor Park South, which mostly includes properties along Brittany Drive, would see more mid-rise and high-rise buildings. The plan goes to City Council on April 13.

### Stay connected in the 'Burgh

To receive monthly NECA updates by email sign up through the community website at [newedinburgh.ca](http://newedinburgh.ca). For up-to-the-minute updates on what's happening in the neighbourhood, you can join the Google Group "New Edinburgh Discussions", then simply email to [new-ed-talk@googlegroups.com](mailto:new-ed-talk@googlegroups.com). You can also join the listserv, known informally as the Moms' List (although there are more than just mothers on the list), by sending an email request to List Master Dave Rostenne ([dave@theconsultant.net](mailto:dave@theconsultant.net)). You can also follow us on Twitter @New\_Edinburgh and Facebook @NewEdinburghNECA.

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# Closure of two area food shops sparks idea for food co-op

By Shoshana Freedman,  
Helin Burkay, Dez  
Dessureault, Jennifer  
Manning, Clara Sellers,  
Amenemhet Sánchez and  
Jeff Haga

What would a local community food-co-operative look like? What would it do? How might we create a community-owned and community-run food co-op that could provide myriad benefits to its members, enhance nearby shopping options, support local food producers, and gather and grow community?

A group of local residents, including some from New Edinburgh, are currently exploring these very questions. Following a robust online conversation attended by 15 participants on Feb. 10, seven of us have come together and committed to researching what type of co-op would best meet the needs and interests of our community.

The idea for a community food co-op and the subsequent brainstorming session coincided with the recent closure of two local grocers: Nature's Buzz, the popular health food store that was a fixture on Beechwood Avenue for 20 years before closing this February, and the decades-old, much-loved Manor Park Grocery whose owners retired last year.

The loss of these neighbourhood grocery stores led some of us to wonder what we could create to meet this need

and prompted us to think more about how we want to shop for food, what we want to buy, and what we want to support with our dollars.

Some readers may already belong to a co-op, such as a credit union or an insurance, housing, or daycare co-op. Or perhaps you are familiar with the Funeral Co-operative of Ottawa on St. Laurent Boulevard. Community food co-ops can take various forms, including grocery stores, bulk food-buying clubs, and pop-up market stalls. Whatever their format, co-ops are independent businesses, fully owned by the community members who use the service, although shopping is open to non-members as well.

Profits are re-invested in a co-operative. They are democratic: every member gets a vote and participates in decision-making. Co-ops are community hubs, and members can contribute through monthly work shifts or serving on the board of directors. Community food co-ops tend to be resilient. Karma Co-op Food Store in Toronto, Kootenay Co-op Grocery Store in Nelson, B.C., and Park Slope Food Co-op in Brooklyn, New York, have all thrived for more than 45 years, contributing to community solidarity and well-being. Lastly, co-ops worldwide are guided by common principles that inform the mission and values of individual co-ops.

Some of the priorities that participants identified at the Feb. 10 meeting included: providing healthy, affordable, and sustainable food, and ensuring it is accessible to community members living with food insecurity; purchasing bulk foods to reduce cost and packaging; and creating opportunities for neighbours to meet. Most participants expressed a preference for starting out with a co-op that would not require a fixed storefront location. Resembling a buying club, the proposed alternative could still build and maintain a community presence through various regular pop-ups, working in partnership with farmers, local producers, makers, and community organizations.

The initial invitation to participate in a conversation about a community food co-op garnered more than 40 responses from two local listservs. This response is encouraging, and we hope more of you will join us as we continue to take steps to develop this exciting idea. A food co-op has the potential to nourish our community in many ways.

If you would like more information, or if you want to get involved (no co-op experience or special skills needed), please contact us at: [communityfoodcoopinfo@gmail.com](mailto:communityfoodcoopinfo@gmail.com).

*A version of this article was previously published in the Manor Park Chronicle.*



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**[newedinburgh.ca](http://newedinburgh.ca)**

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# Helping our businesses rebound once and for all



**Jim Watson**  
Mayor of Ottawa

February was nothing short of a nightmare for the people of Ottawa, especially for those living, working, and running businesses in the downtown core. I want to take this opportunity to thank them for their patience and resilience during that time.

A special thanks also goes to the Ottawa Police Service and the officers from other law enforcement agencies from across the country that

worked in lockstep to carry out a measured and effective plan to restore peace and reclaim our streets in Ottawa's downtown following a weeks-long occupation. And to all the frontline workers, first responders and City staff who put in countless hours and tireless efforts during a long month – thank you.

With that said, businesses in the downtown core were some of the hardest-hit over

the last few years, following several pandemic-related lockdowns in Ontario and then the many weeks of closure as a result of the occupation. While municipalities in Ontario do not have the ability to provide direct financial assistance to businesses, City Council passed various motions at a meeting last month that will give them a leg up in the coming weeks and months. These include:

- A deferral of interim 2022 property taxes for affected businesses in the areas impacted by the occupation;
- Providing a total of \$450,000 to affected Business Improvement Areas, Business Associations and the Ottawa Markets Corporation;
- Approving a funding

contribution of \$50,000 to the Ottawa Music Industry Coalition to deliver an expanded City Sounds outdoor concert series in 2022;

- Expanding no-charge transit to include service on O-Train Line 1 until March 27; and

- Approving free parking at downtown City-owned surface lots and garages through March 31.

In addition, I want to thank the provincial and federal governments for their business relief funding to cover some costs incurred during the demonstration. While this is a good first step, I continue to urge both levels of government to also cover lost wages for employees who were significantly affected during this

period.

I know these measures are just a starting point to encourage residents and visitors to return to our downtown core to enjoy our vibrant neighbourhoods and experience the beauty of our nation's capital. As we begin to see restrictions lifting across the province, I want to thank all those who continue to follow advice from our public health experts to keep ourselves and our neighbours safe. COVID-19 is still present in our community, and while we still need to be cautious, we must also find a way to learn to live with the virus.

For details related to the business support package, please visit [ottawa.ca](http://ottawa.ca).

## City-funded burlap kits coming soon as battle against moths enters second year

**By Karen Squires and Katherine Hall**

Last November, we were pleased to hear the City of Ottawa had a budget allocation for the infestation of *Spongy Moths* (*Lymantria dispar dispar*, formerly known colloquially as gypsy moths). Spongy Moth caterpillars attacked trees across the city, defoliating once-healthy specimens, and leaving droppings which appeared like a mix of slimy wet mud and grass. Summer 2021 was not a fun walk in the park – literally! The potential for longer term damage to trees and biodiversity is pos-

sible again this year, without city leadership and community involvement. This year, the city plans to work with community associations (not with individuals directly) to distribute burlap kits to help contain the caterpillar infestation.

The new funding which the City allocated for this initiative also includes such resources as:

- more staff support, communication with community associations, etc;
- city-wide infestation monitoring;
- an egg-mass survey showing the infestation is localized

and wards 2,4,5,7,11,12,13 (which includes New Edinburgh),15 and 18 are expected to experience heavy to severe defoliation in 2022.

Protection includes forestry services piloting a tree injection program in severely affected areas, with a focus on oak trees, located close to active park areas. Spraying is not being considered at this time.

According to the city's new Spongy Moth (LDD) Response Plan – Table 1 Life Stages, this caterpillar is at the destructive stage starting as early as May and going through to July. That is why the

New Edinburgh Community Alliance's (NECA) Friends of the Park committee has been liaising with city staff for several months regarding their "Burlap Kit". The burlap is to be installed around the tree trunks to form a trap where caterpillars congregate. Frequent disposal of the caterpillars from the trap (soaking burlap with insects in soapy water for 24 hours) reduces the number of insects feeding on the leaves and helps to protect trees from the infestation.

NECA will order a burlap roll (300 ft x 4 ft/92m x 1.2m), twine and instructions on how to install the burlap, but it will likely not be available for our Spring Park Clean-Up on April 22 (See details on p. 13). However, at the clean-up event, if you are interested in protecting a tree or several trees in your area, volunteers will take your name and coordinates on location. When we receive the burlap from the city, volunteers will help to distribute the strips of burlap and twine, so please bring measurements of your tree trunk so we can cut the strips accordingly. Burlap sections will be available, on a first come, first serve basis. Details on how to install the burlap will be distributed electronically and will be available on [Ottawa.ca](http://ottawa.ca).



Photo by Simon Leadlay

**Spongy moth caterpillars devastated Ottawa's trees in 2021, and threaten to do the same again this year.**

If you'd like to get more involved, let us know at [info@newedinburgh.ca](mailto:info@newedinburgh.ca) as we may require volunteer support in distributing the burlap. Friends of the Park will continue to liaise with the city on this program. We anticipate good interest from New Edinburgh and will do our best to share details through the community website ([newedinburgh.ca](http://newedinburgh.ca)) and on community list-serves. Thank you for your interest and support!

*Karen Squires and Katherine Hall are members of NECA's Friends of the Park committee. Contact them at [info@newedinburgh.ca](mailto:info@newedinburgh.ca).*

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# What I was able to do to limit the impacts of the occupation



**Rawlson King**  
City Councillor, Ward 13

The City was subject to countless disruptions because of the unprecedented demonstration that affected the downtown core during the month of February. As a municipal elected official, I have no power to legally prevent demonstrations or to give operational direction to the Ottawa Police Service. Enforcement during the protests was the sole responsibility of the Police Service.

As a public official, however, I did ask very pointed questions of the Police Service to encourage it to exercise its full duties and powers under the law to

bring the illegal occupation to a rapid conclusion. I also worked with business organizations and residents in our ward to limit the negative impact of the encampment located on Coventry Road. The efforts of the community, along with my office, helped supply enough intelligence for police to intervene several times at that encampment site.

From the outset of the protest-cum-occupation, I strongly indicated that protestors needed to leave the city and not breach the peace. I had heard many concerns regarding the hateful and racist acts

and displays related to the occupation, and as a result I worked with both community groups and City Council to denounce and condemn the unconscionable extremism, racism, intolerance, and xenophobia that was present at the protest.

Working with municipal, provincial, and federal colleagues, I personally called upon both the Government of Ontario and the Government of Canada to provide all necessary financial and logistical supports needed to bring the protest to an end and allow the City of Ottawa to return to normal. At Council, I introduced a successful motion seeking permission from the province to recover demonstration-related policing costs from any persons deemed responsible for such costs. I moved a successful motion asking the province to revoke the use of the provincial Staycation Tax Credit so that so-called

“protest tourists” do not take advantage of the tax break.

I worked with council colleagues to consider deferring interim tax payments for businesses impacted by the occupation. I also supported initiatives that would provide added funds to downtown-area Business Improvement Areas, including the Vanier BIA which represents Beechwood Avenue, Montreal Road, and McArthur Avenue, to jumpstart economic recovery.

We know that more than 40 per cent of businesses in the affected areas closed due to concerns and obstructions arising during the protest, and more than 75 per cent of businesses lost revenue directly because of the illegal occupation. The economic impact of the illegal occupation over the course of four weeks is estimated at \$200 million in Ottawa, and the reputational damage due to the impact of the protest is

incalculable.

Due to the overwhelming challenges that businesses have been experiencing over the course of the pandemic, it is important that the City of Ottawa do everything within its power to reinvigorate these businesses. That is why I encourage you to come together to support Ottawa’s small businesses, restaurants, tourism operators, and special events. Over the next couple of months, I will be working with council colleagues, along with other levels of government, to ensure this type of public safety failure does not happen again. You will be able to learn more about these efforts at [rideau-rockcliffe.ca/publicsafety](http://rideau-rockcliffe.ca/publicsafety).

*City Councillor Rawlson King can be reached at 613-580-2483, [rideaurockcliffeward@ottawa.ca](mailto:rideaurockcliffeward@ottawa.ca) and at [rideau-rockcliffe.ca](http://rideau-rockcliffe.ca).*

## Democracy is being put to the test



**Lucille Collard**  
MPP Ottawa-Vanier

Over the past months, we have heard cries of “freedom” echoing through our downtown core. However, these cries have severely disrupted the lives of many Ottawa-Vanier residents. Many people did not have the freedom to go to work and did not have the freedom to walk in safety from the harassment of the occupiers. While we can all agree that citizens have the right to demonstrate peacefully, we must also remember that “one person’s freedom ends where another’s begins.”

On the other side of the world, similar cries are heard in Ukraine, but these are in response to the invasion from Russia, a country classified as an authoritarian regime by the Democracy Index. This grotesque act of war must be condemned by all. We must continue to support Ukraine, reach out to our Ukrainian-

Canadian neighbours and do our part to help.

The fact that these two events occurred one after the other shows us how absurdly exaggerated the occupation was. The occupiers who compared our governments to tyrants can see with their own eyes that in Russia people who peacefully demonstrate against state decisions are immediately arrested by the police. Since opposition and disregard for the principles of the rights of others create conflict, it is imperative to defend democratic interests and reduce polarization in Canada and around the world. Our governments have a responsibility to strike a balance that respects freedom of expression while protecting the freedom of Canadians to live peacefully with democracy as a backdrop.

*MPP Lucille Collard can be reached at [lucillecollard.ca](mailto:lucillecollard.ca),*

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### Une démocratie mise à l'épreuve

Au courant des derniers mois, nous avons entendu des cris de « liberté » résonner à travers notre centre-ville. Cependant, ces cris ont gravement perturbé la vie de plusieurs résidents d'Ottawa-Vanier. Plusieurs gens n'avaient pas la liberté de se rendre au travail et n'avaient pas la liberté de marcher en sécurité face au harcèlement des occupants. Même si nous sommes sûrement tous d'accord que les citoyens ont tous le droit de manifester paisiblement, il faut aussi se rappeler que “la liberté des uns s'arrête là où commence celle des autres.”

De l'autre côté du monde des cris similaires se font entendre en Ukraine, mais ces derniers se produisent suite de l'invasion russe, un pays classé comme régime autoritaire par le Democracy Index. Cet acte de guerre grotesque doit être condamné par tous. Nous devons continuer à appuyer l'Ukraine, tendre la main à nos voisins Ukrainien-Canadiens et faire notre part pour aider.

Le fait que ces deux évène-

ments se soient produits l'un après l'autre nous permet de constater à quel point l'occupation était une exagération absurde de la réalité. Les occupants qui comparaient nos gouvernements à des tyrans peuvent voir de leurs propres yeux qu'en Russie les gens qui manifestent paisiblement contre les décisions de l'état se font arrêter immédiatement par les forces policières. Puisque les conflits sont créés par l'opposition et le mépris des principes des

droits d'autrui, il est impératif de défendre les intérêts démocratiques et de diminuer la polarisation au Canada et à travers le monde. Nos gouvernements ont la responsabilité de proposer un équilibre qui respecte la liberté d'expression tout en protégeant la liberté des Canadiens de vivre paisiblement avec la démocratie en toile de fond.

*Contactez députée Lucille Collard à [lucillecollard.ca](mailto:lucillecollard.ca), [lcollard.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org](mailto:lcollard.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org), ou 613-744-4484.*

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# While things will worsen before getting better, Ukraine will survive

Continued from page 1

Nearly a month before the war started, I fretted on Facebook about the looming invasion. I was worried that a Russian attack would leave my family and friends without water, power, heat, food, or the internet. A Russian man who I've known for 30 years responded with this:

*Don't worry. Your fears are baseless. If Russians are forced to invade Ukraine, their tanks will be greeted with flowers in the streets of Kyiv, as they were in Crimea in 2014. Not a single apartment building will be damaged; not a single elevator will stop working, making stockpiles of water and canned goods meaningless.*

I was stunned. This guy is no idiot – on the contrary, he's pretty smart. Yet he believed that Ukrainians wanted to be liberated and that the Russian



Photo by David Lawrence

**Tanya Lawrence in central Kyiv shortly after the Revolution of Dignity in 2014. The protests led to the fall of Ukraine's pro-Russian president, Viktor Yanukovich.**

steer Ukraine away from Europe towards Russia. The main square in Kyiv – Independence Square

ers, killing more than 100 people. The violence escalated and led to Yanukovich fleeing to Russia.

Shortly after, Russia's invasion of Ukraine began. They occupied Crimea and held a sham referendum to justify annexing it. They also sent people to key eastern and southern cities of Ukraine to foment "uprisings." The war simmered for eight years.

That experience taught me several things about Ukrainians. First, they are tough and don't want to live as vassals. Second, they want to live in a democracy and become part of Europe. An entire generation grew up in a democracy, and I knew they wouldn't give up their freedom easily. No Ukrainian would ever greet Russian tanks with flowers.

The Russian invaders are learning this first-hand. Putin expected to take the country within a few days and believed his soldiers would be welcomed as liberators. Many even brought parade uniforms, thinking they'd march through Kyiv in victory before cheering crowds. Rarely has military intelligence failed so completely.

A month later, the fighting rages on. Ukrainians from all walks of life are fighting hard for their freedom. Ukraine's

president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, has proven to be an effective wartime leader. I saw him onstage when he was a comedian only a few years ago. I didn't have high expectations for him when he was elected. The man is only 44 years old and had no political experience. But he stood up to then-U.S. president Donald Trump, who tried to blackmail him, and he is standing up to Putin. He remained in Kyiv despite the risk to his life and an offer by the Americans to evacuate him. He has inspired and shamed the West into providing support.

It's working. People like to help those who help themselves. Russia's army is performing terribly and suffering heavy losses, while Ukrainians are fighting exceptionally well. It looks like the reputation of the Russian Federation's armed forces is one of the casualties of the war.

The sanctions imposed by the West have proven to be much harsher than most analysts predicted. As a result, Russia's economy is falling apart. That's made them angry and frustrated, and they're taking it out on Ukraine. Residential areas and civilian infrastructure are being targeted. More than

three million Ukrainians have already fled abroad. Millions more, including members of our family, are internally displaced.

So, where will the war lead? I believe that if Ukraine continues to resist, Putin will lose the war. Russia has no clear way out. It will pound Ukraine hard in the coming weeks and months in the hopes that it gets a concession – acceptance of Crimea's annexation and recognition of the breakaway republics in the east. It will get worse before it gets better. But Ukrainians will keep fighting, even in the rubble.

In the meantime, Russia will become more and more unstable. Russians, particularly the corrupt elite, already feel the bite of sanctions, which prevents them from enjoying their wealth. Russia's economy is tanking. Worse yet for Putin, Russia's reputation is in tatters. So much for Russian greatness. I'm not sure how long Putin will be able to hang on to power, but I'm confident that Ukraine will outlive him.

All Ukraine has to do is survive. If it does, I believe the war will end with Ukraine in full control of its territory, including Crimea. Ukraine's democracy will be stronger, setting an example for Russians to follow. The country will be shattered but can expect significant aid for redevelopment. There will be no doubt that it belongs in Europe.

The Russian Embassy in Ottawa has a monument visible through the gates. It says, in Russian, "Eternal memory to the heroes of the Great Patriotic War who saved the world from fascism."

Those words ring hollow today.

David Lawrence is a communications officer with the World Bank. He moved to New Edinburgh from Kyiv with his family in 2018. A version of this article was published on Chuck the Writer's blog on Mar. 9, 2022: <https://bit.ly/chuck-the-writer>.

*No Ukrainian would ever greet Russian tanks with flowers [...] they are tough and don't want to live as vassals.*

military would not harm the civilian population.

I knew he was dead wrong. In the winter of 2013–14, I spent a lot of time on the streets during the Revolution of Dignity, a movement that started when then-president Viktor Yanukovich tried to

(Maidan) was occupied by protesters for months. There were barricades, tents, food, speeches, concerts, and a defense system. They successfully resisted the hard-handed tactics of government forces. In February 2014, snipers attacked the protest-

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# Heritage Conservation Districts hope for changes in City's Official Plan



Heritage and Development Committee - Comité Patrimoine et Développement

## By Gail McEachern, Heritage & Development

"We all know that sentences are made up of words. But words come in various guises, whatever they are intended to hide or reveal, so we must begin with them..." –Karen Elizabeth Gordon

The new Ottawa Official Plan was recently approved by City Council and is currently being reviewed by the Ontario government. It assesses municipal official plans with respect to matters of provincial interest.

The following is a summary of a document sent to Ontario's Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism, and Cultural Industries that requests changes to the wording in sections of the Official Plan that relate to Ottawa's heritage conservation districts. The request was sent on behalf of representatives from the majority of Ottawa's fifteen heritage conservation districts.

One recurring challenge to adequately preserving our heritage districts is the unclear or equivocal language in municipal direc-

tives which leaves room for conflicting and/or unintended interpretations. Our goal was to clarify language and intent of key provisions in four key areas of the official plan to strengthen heritage protection for heritage conservation districts. The four areas are:

- Heritage Conservation Districts (HCDs) and Intensification
- Lot Sizes and Patterns
- Property Definition
- Adjacent Lands Definition

### 1) Heritage Conservation Districts and Intensification:

The goal is to ensure intensification that occurs in heritage conservation districts respects the character of the districts as defined in their heritage plans. Proposed wording for section S.4.5.2(3): "Heritage designation is intended to ensure that all development is contextually appropriate. It is not intended to discourage intensification or limit housing choice if it is contextually appropriate. To ensure contextually appropriate development, elements of built form, including height, scale, and massing of development, shall conserve the defined cultural heritage values and attributes of the property or HCD."

### 2) Lot Sizes and Patterns:

The size and pattern of the lot is commonly cited as an important element in defining the character of a Heritage Conservation District. Heritage Plans emphasize preserving the established lot pattern to discourage the development of new lots which are incompatible with the visual rhythm of the existing streetscape. Neither the Ontario Heritage Act nor the Ottawa Official Plan define "lot." However, the City of Ottawa has a zoning by-law that states: "'Lot' means all contiguous land under one ownership." This definition allows for the assembly of contiguous properties which destroys established lot patterns and sizes dramatically undermining the heritage character of streetscapes. Proposed wording for section 4.5 Cultural Heritage & Archeology (p. 89): "Where established lot sizes and patterns form part of the heritage character of an HCD, contiguous land under one ownership does not create a new lot if this would result in a lot that differs from the estab-

lished lot sizes and pattern in the associated streetscape."

### 3) Property Definition:

It is very important to the proper interpretation of Heritage Plans that the definition of "property" as set out in the Ontario Heritage Act be respected. To ensure it is respected, that definition should be included in the Ottawa Official Plan: "Property shall mean real property, all buildings and structures thereon, and includes a cultural heritage landscape."

### 4) Adjacent Lands

**Definition:** A stated goal of the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) is to protect heritage properties, including heritage conservation districts, from inappropriate development on adjacent lands. It defines "adjacent lands" as: "those lands contiguous to a protected property or as otherwise defined in the municipal official plan" (2.6.3). Most lands that are adjacent to heritage districts are across the street from them, not contiguous to them, so the definition must be expanded to make this clear. The PPS specifies

that a municipal official plan can provide its own definition of "adjacent lands." Toronto has done this. We propose the Ottawa Official Plan include in the Cultural Heritage & Archeology section (p. 89/4.5) the statement: "'Adjacent lands' means those lands adjoining a property in an HCD or lands that are across from or near to a property in a HCD, and separated by land used as a private or public road, lane, trail, right-of-way, green space or park."

It remains to be seen if the Ontario government will respond positively to this request to optimize the preservation of heritage conservation districts in Ottawa. To do so would better ensure that the Ottawa Official Plan meets the requirement in the Provincial Policy Statement that: "Significant built heritage resources and significant cultural heritage landscapes shall be conserved."

*Gail McEachern is the chair of NECA's Heritage and Development committee. You can reach her at [info@newedinburgh.ca](mailto:info@newedinburgh.ca).*

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# BURGH BUSINESS BRIEFS

By Jane Heintzman and Tamara Miller

## Red Door co-owner opens new café

Late last fall, **Lauren Power**, the energetic owner-operator of **Red Door Provisions** at 117 Beechwood Ave., opened a new destination in the region's culinary world. Lauren joined forces with business partner and skilled barista **Emmett Pavey** to take over **Café Palmier**, a cozy eatery opposite the Gatineau Park Visitors' Centre at 40 Chemin Scott in Chelsea, Que. Café Palmier is housed in a spacious, state-of-the-art building, and boasts lots of outdoor patio space for the warmer months to come.

The restaurant is open seven days a week, from 7:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, and from 8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. It serves a regular clientele of Chelsea locals along with hungry skiers, cyclists, and hikers visiting Gatineau Park from across the national capital region.

Café Palmier is closely linked to its sister operation at Red Door Provisions: its

pastries are provided by Red Door's production kitchen on Walkley Road. You'll find many of your Beechwood favourites on the Chelsea menu, along with a similar repertoire of specialty coffees. Like Red Door, the café offers a lineup of preserves, pickles, maple syrup, hot chocolate, small-batch flours, and other products you can pick up when you visit for breakfast or lunch. And if you work up a thirst cycling or hiking in the park, craft beers and natural wines are also on the Café Palmier menu. The café's freezer is well stocked with breads and pastries, and the team plans to stock a range of frozen meals as well.

The two eateries do have a few differences, not least the Chelsea café's significantly more spacious quarters. The Café Palmier menu is also, in Lauren's words, "more involved" than the regular Red Door offering. She describes the breakfast menu as "fun fare," with a touch of the eclecticism that characterizes her baking at Red Door.

Breakfast options range from avocado toast to challah toast topped with peanut butter and jam; peanut butter and chocolate; ricotta and jam; and also beet and salmon gravlax. Try out breakfast bowls of all descriptions (several gluten-free): chia bowls; brown rice porridge; a "power" bowl; a "poké" bowl; and shakshuka, featuring poached eggs, spicy tomato and red pepper sauce, parmesan and ricotta cheeses, green onions, and greens.

Lauren's immediate to-do list for the Chelsea operation includes a major update of the Café Palmier website. For the moment, you can call **819-827-1777** for more information. We wish Lauren and Emmett the best of luck in their new venture, and a long and successful summer in that sylvan location.

Back home in New Edinburgh, Red Door Provisions (117 Beechwood Ave.) continues to flourish as a hub for fine teas and coffees, and irresistible baked fare. Beechwood manager **Kerry McRae** also coordinates the



Photo by Alexander McKenzie

**Donald Wingell has opened Dhruvees restaurant at 18 Beechwood, featuring spicy "North Star" cuisine.**

supply links between Red Door's production kitchen and Café Palmier, as well as the business' catering operation. The store continues to operate on a take-out only basis, but looks forward to opening up both front and rear patios once the weather warms up. —JH

## Dhruvees officially opens

We last spoke to **Donald Wingell**, founder and president of Wingell Hospitality group, in October 2021 just after his purchase of the former eatery Jasper at 18 Beechwood Ave., when his restaurant was just a concept. With Dhruvees now open for business, we caught up with Donald to learn more about his exciting new restaurant.

Dhruvees serves "North Star Cuisine," inviting guests to experience various Asian cuisines in one location, with dishes carefully crafted by world-renowned Michelin Star celebrity chef **Vikas Khanna**. Dhruvees has developed its own signature spice mixtures – masalas – based on traditional recipes, with partners Arun Spices and Golden Roots in Malaysia. Every day they mix the masalas, using key spice ingredients to marinate locally sourced Ontario meats.

Dhruvees' signature dishes

include the Indonesian favourite lamb rendang, Sri Lankan pepper crab, salmon tikka, and chicken malai tikka. The biryanis (available in lamb, chicken, shrimp, and vegetable) are made with fragrant long-grain basmati rice. Donald notes that if anyone has a specific meat or seafood request for a biryani, they can simply place an advance order.

Dhruvees recently introduced a daily "power lunch" menu that features a combination of steamed basmati rice, chapathi, chicken curry of the day, vegetable curry of the day, spiced baby potatoes, vegetable salad, and the daily dessert. This is in addition to a daily afternoon tea featuring Indian and Sri Lankan snacks, served from 3–5:30 p.m. Their specially curated children's menu with mini portions of select dishes has also been very popular with families.

Donald also plans to start a weekday lunch buffet beginning in April, and a weekend brunch special which will include sparkling wines and mimosas, and an eclectic choice of North Star Cuisines' dishes. Be on the lookout for live jazz music on select evenings at the Dhruvees' corner patio as the weather gets nicer!



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Dhruvees is located at 18 Beechwood Ave. Learn more or place a takeout order at [dhruvees.com](http://dhruvees.com) – your meal will be ready for pick-up in 35 minutes. –TM

### New bakery emerges from its shell

When architect and designer **Maged Kamal** undertook an award-winning restoration–renovation of a dilapidated former bakery on The Mews Lane here in New Edinburgh, it never crossed his mind that he might someday operate a bakery of his own, only a few kilometres away at 285 St. Patrick St. (between Cumberland and Dalhousie Streets). But that improbable coincidence has become a reality, and Maged is poised to launch **The Orange Turtle Bakery** in the coming weeks. “It’s a new kind of bakery,” he explains. “Small, community-based and offering specialty baked goods inspired by cultures from around the world, notably those of Europe and the Mediterranean.”

The links between Maged’s professional background as an architect and designer and his new vocation as a specialty baker and small-business operator may not be



Photo by Maged Kamal

**A peak inside the new Orange Turtle Bakery on St. Patrick Street in nearby Lowertown.**

immediately obvious. But, he says: “it became clear to me with time, that I was able to bring the same creative processes to this new project, and apply them to recipes with very interesting results!” Maged is no stranger to the art of baking, having worked as a youth with his mother and grandmother, and later recreating many of their recipes. His plan is to start slowly at the Orange Turtle

with a small assortment of baked goods – cakes, loaves (including several banana loaf variations), scones, and shortbread, – along with coffee and tea. Once the client base is established, he will gradually expand the repertoire to include unique cakes, specialty coffees and gourmet sandwiches.

Tasty baked goods have an obvious appeal. But Maged’s cosmopolitan background

and extensive travels convinced him that bakeries also contribute to the fabric and vibrancy of communities. Much of his youth was spent in Norway and Germany, close to the Swiss border, where he was struck by the importance of the many bakeries thriving in those communities, each with its own distinctive fare and character.

Maged hopes to recreate that effect in the Ottawa context, via both the quality and appeal of his products, and the welcoming atmosphere at The Orange Turtle as a hub for sociability and community life. In the short term, Maged has plans for some modest outdoor seating as the weather warms up, and down the road, he intends to install a small indoor counter and benches where clients can enjoy a pastry and a cup of fine coffee en route to or from the market. He is enthusiastic about the advantages of his St. Patrick Street location, where there is one-hour free parking, along with local bus routes. “And it’s within walking and cycling distance of New Edinburgh,” he adds.

Maged explains the significance of the bakery’s intriguing name: “The turtle was a

logical choice. It’s a friendly, timeless, universal symbol. And I settled on the colour orange from the beginning, because it’s a cheerful and positive colour, and a contemporary one as well.” At this moment in 2022, cheerful, positive and friendly additions to our world are more than welcome!

While he is understandably reluctant to name a specific opening date, given the recent challenges of the pandemic and the recent downtown occupation, Maged hopes to launch The Orange Turtle by the end of April, operating initially on a farmers’ market schedule between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. “Maybe it’s apt that our logo is a turtle,” he says, reflecting on the numerous delays encountered in the fit-up of the premises. While the bakery’s website is still in development, you are welcome to call **613-562-2253 (BAKE)** for the latest on the opening date.

We wish Maged success in his new venture and look forward to the day when the Turtle emerges from its shell to greet the spring! –JH

**Continued on page 10**

  
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Continued from page 9

**Tiny corner café a great meet-up spot**

Spring has sprung at the Union Street Kitchen Café at 42 Crichton St.—just ask some of the loyal customers who, according to owner **Christine Garand**, have been like family. Since the beginning of the pandemic two years ago, Union Street Kitchen Café has moved away from indoor ordering and eating to an outdoor-only model. This has led to an unexpected result — neighbours gathering and getting to know one another!

Christine tells us that although the café's outdoor space is limited to a few seats and benches, patrons now tend to mill around the outside of the location while they enjoy their drinks and treats. Folks are congregating in a way that they never did when they were inside. In fact, some of their biggest gatherings happen on Sundays after church services when customers socialize after collecting their coffee orders.

And Christine is in no rush to change this model. She and her team have been able to remain open for the duration



Photo by Alexander McKenzie

**Union Street Kitchen Café staff Aymi K. and Georgia L.**

of the pandemic (except for a few months at the beginning) because of the shift to outdoor pickup. Her regulars really appreciate this new way of operating and she tells the *New Edinburgh News* that she is doing her part to make sure our most vulnerable remain safe.

And with the nicer weather just around the corner, this makes outdoor and physically-distant gathering even easier. Patrons can now enjoy favourites that are back on the

menu, such as their popular iced drinks or their lavender lemonade, homemade with an organic lavender syrup that they make in-house from scratch — just like everything else on their menu! You can even get your order packed into a takeaway picnic box for convenient transport. And no need to worry about waste: all of the utensils and containers are compostable, including the coffee cups (though many regulars just bring their own mug for a fill up).

So if you are looking to get out of the house this spring and meet up with some of your neighbours, the Union Street Café has a bench waiting for you!

Union Street Café is located at 42 Crichton St. and can be found online at [onunionstreet.ca](http://onunionstreet.ca).

Their hours are: Mondays from 8 a.m. — 1 p.m., Tuesday to Fridays from 8 a.m. — 3 p.m. and weekends from 9 a.m. — 3 p.m. —*TM*

**Keep calm and eat scones**

Ottawa restaurants and small businesses can perhaps be forgiven for lamenting that the prevailing local law recently has been Murphy's Law: *whatever can go wrong, will go wrong*.

Following two difficult years of dislocation and lost business caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, many in the downtown core were subjected to still more punishment during the three-week occupation by the so-called freedom convoy. Just as the relaxation of COVID restrictions offered the possibility of recovery, those hopes were dashed by another lengthy shutdown while protesters had free rein downtown.

**Heather Matthews'** four **SconeWitch** outlets were among the many restaurants feeling the pain of this succession of calamities — not least the shop at 150 Elgin St., which was effectively marooned when Shopify abruptly departed the building at the start of the pandemic, and the lunch-hour crowd evaporated when federal offices shifted to a work-at-home model for employees. During the occupation, doors were closed altogether for the safety of SconeWitch employees.

But with characteristic resilience, Heather, her daughter **Madeline**, and the whole SconeWitch team have continued to do a brisk take-out business throughout the ordeal and introduced a popular home-delivery service for orders of frozen, ready-to-bake scones. In fact, the delivery service has been so popular that Heather has had requests for scone shipments to Toronto, New York City, and Chicago — clearly not an option, but a tribute to the stellar reputation of her legendary scones!

It now seems there may be light at the end of the COVID-19 tunnel. But eager

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Photo by Alexander McKenzie

**Sable shows off some freshly baked scones at the SconeWitch, 35 Beechwood Ave.**

as they are to welcome back customers for indoor dining, at press time in March, Heather and Madeline have opted for a gradual return to full service, bearing in mind the lingering presence of the virus and the need to minimize risk to both staff and clients. Heather thinks the picture should be clearer once travelers return from March Break, and when the effects of the end of mask mandates have been fully assessed.

Step one of the ramp-up to full service will begin April 1, when SconeWitch customers can once again take a seat in the café to enjoy their purchases. Until then, meals will remain in a take-away format, and limited to the current scone and sandwich menu. "After that, we will gradually expand the menu and allow more relaxed access once things look a little better," says Heather.

When full indoor service resumes at SconeWitch, plans are afoot to introduce table service: a departure from the long-time cafeteria-style model. But this second step will be contingent on several critically important factors: COVID conditions in the community as spring unfolds; the pace at which business recovers after a long and painful slump; and the martialing of the financial and human resources required to restore normal operations. After two tumultuous years, Heather is understandably reluctant to name an exact date for these final steps, but she encourages patrons to check the **sconewitch.ca** site for timetable updates.

Despite the lingering uncertainty about timing, Heather and her team look forward

to launching the new table-service model, which is certain to appeal to many regular clients. Heather has high hopes that a clear separation of take-out from in-house dining will streamline service for all concerned. The aim is to minimize long waits in the queue, when, for example, a large group takes its time resolving the weighty questions of scone flavour or jam type for each guest, leaving those at the back of the line in hungry limbo.

Based on her experience operating Domus Restaurant some years ago, Heather plans to steer clear of the competitive struggles that can occur between servers and kitchen staff over the allotment of tips. All gratuities will be fairly shared among all SconeWitch staff.

Some late-breaking news for scone lovers: SconeWitch's menu has a recent addition! Date and fennel is shaping up to be a new scone favourite. To Heather's amusement, one client who pretended to bristle at the store's pressure to try this new item returned the very next day to purchase a package of six!

We wish Heather, Madeline and the SconeWitch team at 35 Beechwood Ave. an early return to full operations, and smoother sailing in 2022. — JH

#### **Epicuria under renovations April 17 – May 8**

Beginning in late April, **Epicuria** will launch a major spring renovation project to overhaul their storefront at 357 St. Laurent Blvd. (at Hemlock). It's been a little more than a decade since the shop moved to its present location following the Beechwood Fire of 2011,

and **Tracey Black** and her team have found that they need some changes to better accommodate their current brisk business.

They are cagey about precisely what the plans are but have shared some highlights in Epicuria's weekly newsletter: "We will be bringing back our full-service pastry counter; expanding the freezer and grab-and-go fridges; and will be changing the layout to provide a better shopping experience." *NEN* hopes to provide more details in a future edition.

Clients should take note that the shop will be closed from April 17–May 8 while work is underway. But renovation timetables can be notoriously unreliable, so look for updates on their website: **epicurica.ca**. The online shop will remain open throughout the renovation for both pick-up and delivery orders.

Here's another exciting note

for those with interest in the culinary world: Epicuria is now hiring new recruits for both its retail and its culinary teams. Top criteria for applicants are "genuine enthusiasm about food and people;

high standards for their work and their workplace; and a love of working in a fast-paced environment." Send resumés to **team@epicurica.ca**. —JH

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# StreetFest fundraiser to feature stories, songs, and shopping

Continued from page 1

the neighbourhood. Founded at Rideau Hall in 1906, Laurentian operated for many years out of its headquarters on MacKay Street and later at St. Bartholomew's Church. Some 60 years ago, it inaugurated Ottawa's first House and Garden Tour to raise funds for local causes. That tour operated almost without a break from 1961 until 2019.

Now it's time for something a little different. StreetFest will be a day-long heritage fair held in the streets of New Edinburgh. For your \$30 ticket purchase, you will be given a colourful souvenir booklet telling the story of the village in words and pictures. The book will also contain a self-guided walking tour to lead you to interesting sights the village. Other features of the day will include:

- opening ceremonies with our city councillor Rawlson King;
- a Scottish piper leading off a day-long program of music at MacKay United Church



From the collection of Brian Mallon

Three houses built by Henry Avery for himself and his children still stand in a row on Stanley Avenue, and most of his workshops remain on River Lane. Avery poses with his granddaughter around 1912.

and on village verandas;

- an antique car parade and display;
- historians giving short talks on various aspects of the village history;
- volunteer interpreters posted at houses of particular



From the collection of Robert Donald Bell

The Bell House remains on Stanley Avenue, a memorial to one of the village's longest remaining families. A bearded Dr. Ralph Bell and his wife Janet watch from the verandah as younger members of the family play croquet.



From the collection of Bruce Grant

His ancestors fought the English at Culloden; his descendants founded The Scone Witch in Ottawa. Eliza Jane and Donald M. Grant, with their oldest son, John Clyde Grant, c. 1859. Grant, arriving from Scotland in the mid-1840s, was one of the earliest settlers in New Edinburgh, and his wife – nee Hinton – came from a family of even earlier settlers. Their great granddaughter, Heather Matthews, still lives in the village.

interest to tell you stories of New Edinburgh; and

- on Aug. 28 and Sep. 17, special "New Edinburgh" tours of Beechwood Cemetery.

As well, the event will feature a variety of vendors, including:

- a bake sale with Laurentian's homemade cakes, pies and cookies, as well as their signature marmalades and preserves;
- a treasures market featur-



From the collection of Robert Donald Bell

In his youth, Dr. Ralph Bell was said to have gone on an expedition to rescue John Franklin in the Arctic. He came to New Edinburgh in the 1860s.

ing high-end, second-hand wonders;

- Penny's Pearls, lustrous stones from the Far East at great prices; and more!

Householders: if you own one of the architectural "gems" in the neighbourhood, watch out. We are probably going to drop a letter through your mailbox asking if we can put an interpreter at your front gate on the day to tell the story of your house.

## Where do you fit in?

That is the program so far, but it is still developing, and maybe you can help. For example, are there artists in New Edinburgh who would like to have a presence? Are there musicians? If you know

of vendors who might fit the program, let us know. Do you have a "treasure" you'd like to donate to the Treasures Market? Do you know anybody who might like to do face painting for the kids?

As for the veranda musicians, anyone in New Edinburgh with a veranda and a willing spirit is invited to contact me: [janet.uren@wordimage.ca](mailto:janet.uren@wordimage.ca)

Tickets for StreetFest 2022 will go on sale in July this year at Books on Beechwood. Keep your eyes open: there's more to come!

New Edinburgh StreetFest will take place Sep. 10 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Contact Janet at [janet.uren@wordimage.ca](mailto:janet.uren@wordimage.ca) to learn more.



From the collection of Lois McKay

Most of the shops have disappeared now, but they were once part of the fabric of New Edinburgh. C.J. Neate, grocer and confectioner, founded a shop on Sussex Drive in the 1890s. He and his family lived above the shop.



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# Park clean-up returns on Earth Day

By Karen Squires

Our long tradition of a park clean-up has been on hold for two years due to COVID-19, yet the number of people coming through Stanley and New Edinburgh parks every day has increased. While we do our part by picking up occasionally, when the snow melts, we are left with such non-biodegradable garbage each year as plastics, etc.

So, let's roll up our sleeves, put on our gloves, and clean up the park on Apr. 22 from 4-6 p.m. We suggest you arrive early, as we plan to supply some items, such as garbage bags, gloves, and guidelines from the Cleaning the Capital program. The plan is to meet around 3:45 p.m. just behind the New Edinburgh Park Fieldhouse (203 Stanley Ave.) at the covered gazebo by the splash pad. There are several tables where we can gather, provide supplies, and guide you to a specific location. Please feel free to bring your own gloves in case we run out.

High-school students wishing to help and to log their

volunteer hours are welcome. Katherine Hall and her two boys will be on location, and she will be happy to liaise with any students.

Otherwise, let's hope for a sunny day (or at least no rain) so we can power through and get our park cleaned up for summer. However, should it be raining mid-afternoon on Apr. 22, we will plan a rain-date for the following day: Apr. 23 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

So come along if you can or stay tuned for our fall clean-up. We've already heard from a number of people who wish

to support this end-of-season event. For the autumn clean-up, the area to be tidied will run between Beechwood Avenue and Sussex Drive. We will divide the park into a minimum of three areas so it can be done in a couple of hours quite easily.

Thanks for your support and see you on Earth Day: Apr. 22!

*Karen Squires is a board member of the New Edinburgh Community Alliance. She is part of the Friends of the Park committee.*



Photo by Alexander McKenzie

New Edinburgh/Stanley Park during the spring melt, March 2022.

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## Green building standard offers too little, too late

Continued from page 1

tion goals. The standard also sets lower targets for subdivisions and developments in rural areas. Plus, the many approved, but old subdivision applications can simply go ahead without applying the new standard.

An update of the Building Code will address some of these issues, in particular the energy efficiency requirements for smaller buildings, but the new Code is not expected for another three years. In the meantime, thousands of dwellings will be built that will not be future-proof and will lock in greenhouse gas emissions for many decades.

The standard falls short on specific issues, too. In key areas, such as Electric Vehicle (EV) charging and waste separation, etc., the standard refers to either old or future rules. The provisions for tree canopy and sustainable roofing, for example, don't keep up with the Toronto Green Standard which has been updated four times since 2010 and provides a useful benchmark.

Another shortcoming is enforcement, which at this point is practically non-existent due to a lack of City staff to verify adherence to the building standard and penalties in case of non-compliance.

The Ottawa High-Performance Development Standard goes to Council on Apr. 13, 2022. We shall

lower greenhouse gas emissions.

European Union member states introduced home energy labeling more than 10 years ago and many U.S. states require it, too. The labeling differentiates the property supply and provides home buyers and tenants transparency when making an investment. Coupled with

*We shall see if the lobbying by civil society groups [... and] concerned citizens will help to counter the developer lobby that was given [more time] to influence the standard.*

see whether the lobbying by civil society groups, such as Community Associations for Environmental Sustainability (CAFES), the Electric Vehicle Council of Ottawa, and others, as well as feedback from many concerned citizens, will help to counter a developer lobby given ample opportunity to influence the standard.

A look beyond Ottawa shows that another key piece of the policy mix to transition our buildings to net-zero is missing: home energy labeling. While your dishwasher has an energy rating sticker, you likely have little insight into the energy efficiency of the biggest investment in your lifetime: your home. Home energy labeling provides information about the energy performance of a dwelling and thus serves as a guide to the operational costs of heating and cooling it and indirectly the comfort of a home. A better rating results in lower costs and related

incentive programs, it spurs owners to make climate-relevant upgrades before selling or renting their properties as buyers look beyond the shiny kitchen countertop and demand energy efficient dwellings with lower operational costs.

Unfortunately, home energy labeling was brought down at the provincial level in 2018 in part due to lobbying from the Ontario Real Estate Association. Luckily, momentum is building again at the federal level for such a policy. And it cannot come soon enough as time is running out.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change emphasizes in its latest Assessment Report of February 2022: "the urgency of immediate and more ambitious action" and puts it bluntly: "Half measures are no longer an option." Unfortunately, Ottawa didn't get the memo.

Springfield Road resident Marion Siekierski is a member of NECA's environment committee. She spent a number of years abroad working on environmental education in schools. Marion is involved in environmental issues at the community and city level.

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# How to lessen the pain of rising gas prices

By Julie LaPalme

I live just down the street from the Shell gas station on Beechwood Avenue and since I have both a furnace and a car, I have been paying attention to the rising gas prices. I am all for reducing my carbon emissions and my approach has always been towards energy conservation by combining errands into fewer car trips and walking and cycling to local shops in

keep your furnace as a back-up for those glacial January and February days.

During the summer, rather than turning on the air conditioning, I use ceiling and floor fans and cool off by going for a swim at the pond. If you can't handle the heat and must turn on your AC, you can conserve energy by setting the temperature a few degrees higher during the day and turning it off completely

ing stations. We're far from ready for electric cars here in Canada.

And let us not forget the dirty secret of electric cars and the scale of supply-chain greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, not to mention unethical and devastating mineral extraction practices. Car batteries are quite heavy, adding to the total weight of the car and requiring more energy to drive. Carmakers are turning to aluminium for lightweight body designs, but with EVs using 45 per cent more aluminium than traditional vehicles, emissions are rising due to its energy-intensive mining and production. EV batteries also use nickel, cobalt, lithium, and manganese, which generate still more GHG and destroy habitat for its extraction.

Battery recycling and prioritizing types that use less carbon-intensive materials must be considered, as well as emission caps on the battery and electric-vehicle manufacturing process, and less destructive mining practices. The urgency in getting a lithium supply has unleashed a worldwide mining boom that is threatening the natural environment wherever the element is found. But because EVs appear to drive down emissions, the mining companies have countries' environmental policy on their side. However, Greenpeace has stated that the GHG emissions in the car manufacturing supply chain are not properly quantified by carmakers, due to poor disclosure of their suppliers' GHG emissions



Photo by Alexander McKenzie

High gas prices, as seen at the Shell station on Beechwood Avenue, have inspired people to re-think their consumption.

*Greenwashing is rampant, so choose wisely and look at practical solutions you can adopt quickly like carpooling, cycling, and walking more.*

the neighbourhood.

For years, I have been keeping the temperature of my house at 19°C during the day and I let it go down to 15°C during the night. This might sound extreme to some, but thick duvets keep us very warm in our beds at night. And why wear a t-shirt around the house in the middle of winter when you can wear a nice, warm, knitted sweater?

But with fuel prices fast approaching \$2.00 a litre, what more can I do? The ideal answer is to switch to renewable energy, but solar panels and heat pumps are not cheap. And are these solutions 100 per cent dependable in our cold climate? Best to do your research and ask around before you make the jump. You might also want to

at night on those not-so-hot nights and letting the cool air come in through your open windows.

As for transportation, my first choice in the winter is to run my errands locally on foot, but not everyone has chosen to live within walking distance of shops and services. From spring to fall, I ride my bike unless I'm heading out of town to one of the many wonderful natural wonders that surround us in this region. In choosing a car, I didn't buy an oversized, gas-guzzling vehicle, but purchased a Honda Fit, one of the lightest and smallest cars available. Many countries are phasing out gas-powered cars within a certain time-frame, but they are ahead of the curve in terms of charg-

data.

We must also think about more local energy solutions. Communities in Europe are taking control of their energy needs and implementing local renewable energy solutions to serve the needs of their neighbourhoods. There are more than 620 renewable energy co-operatives in the Netherlands alone.

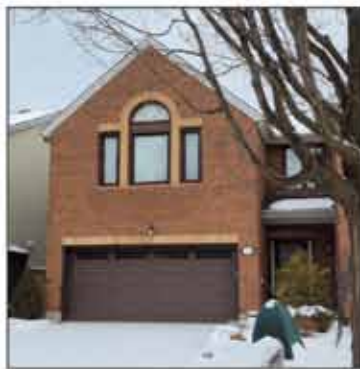
District heating and cooling (DHC) combined with renewable energy sources can also help meet rising urban energy needs, improve efficiency, reduce emissions, and improve local air quality by using solid biofuel, solar, and geothermal energy technologies. Sweden, Switzerland, and Denmark have been using DHC for years and policy makers are seeing a growing role for them in their energy

plans.

There is no easy solution for easing the pain of rising energy costs and reducing GHG emissions. Opportunistic greenwashing is rampant, so choose wisely and look at practical solutions you can adopt quickly, like carpooling, cycling, and walking more. Changing your habits will not only lower your transportation, and heating and cooling costs, but also reduce your impact on the planet.

*Julie LaPalme is a lover of nature, a gardener, and a founding member of Healthy Neighbourhoods Ottawa, a group advocating for healthier gardening practices with a focus on reducing leaf blower use. Find the group at facebook.com/HealthyNeighbourhoodsOttawa.*

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# For the Birds

By Jane Heintzman

Despite the lingering blanket of snow as I write in mid-March, within the next few weeks as spring arrives, the current trickle of songbirds will steadily build to a flood, as migrating species return to our area for the breeding season.

By late February, a smattering of **red-winged blackbirds**, **European starlings** and **ring-billed gulls** had already arrived, and through March, such birds of prey as **red-tailed hawks**, **turkey vultures**, **bald eagles** and **northern goshawks** have been moving into the region in significant numbers. Keep an eye out if you're walking near the Ottawa River, as the chances of spotting a group of circling **turkey vultures** or a majestic **bald eagle** are high in the coming weeks. And with the proliferation of backyard feeding stations comes an influx of small raptors like **merlins**, **kestrels**, and **sharp-shinned hawks**. If you witness a sudden explosion of small birds fleeing in all directions, you'll know you have a hungry visitor on the scene!

By late March, melodious **song sparrows** returned to make their nests, and to serenade us with their signature call: visit [allaboutbirds.org/guide/Song\\_Sparrow/sounds](http://allaboutbirds.org/guide/Song_Sparrow/sounds) to hear a sample. For many years, a song sparrow pair nested in our backyard close to the house, but regrettably, they decamped in recent years because of a noisy **red-winged blackbird** invasion. My fingers are crossed that the song sparrows will beat the red-wings to the punch this year, and spend the season outside my window!

The song sparrows' cous-

ins, the **fox sparrow**, **dark-eyed junco**, **field sparrow**, **vesper sparrow**, **swamp sparrow**, **chipping sparrow** and **white-throated sparrow** (the "O Canada" bird) typically arrive a bit later in March, and through the early weeks of April. It's then that the trickle of returning species really swells as **Eastern phoebes**, **Northern Flickers**, **Brown creepers**, **Great blue herons**, **tree swallows**, **common loons**, **osprey**, **double-crested cormorants**, **ruby-crowned** and **golden-crowned kinglets**, **barn swallows**, **hermit thrush**, **brown thrashers** and many more species move in for the breeding season. **Warbler** lovers can take heart that the earliest arrivals – the **pine warbler** and the **yellow-rumped warbler** – should be back not long after the Apr. 17 Easter weekend.

In our garden, the recent highlights have been flocks of **American robins** and **European starlings** swooping in to consume the remaining berries on our mountain ash tree, along with rosy **house finches**, **American goldfinches** (though not yet



Blue Jay.

Photo by Frank Martin

in their bright yellow breeding plumage), **dark-eyed juncos**, **white-breasted nuthatches**, a lovely **mourning dove**, clusters of lustily tweeting **European house sparrows** tightly packed into our dense euonymus bush, and pair of melodious **Northern cardinals** regaling us with their signature *cheer, cheer, cheer* song.

Both the male and female cardinals are singers in the nesting season, and the males typically sing throughout the year. As the season unfolds, you're certain to hear the cardinals' metallic *chip* call on your walks in the neighbour-

hood; it serves several important purposes, including warning intruders off their territory, sounding the alarm when predators are around, and issuing a heads-up as they carry food to their nests.

**Common ravens** have remained around throughout the winter, and recently delighted my husband with an extraordinary display of aerial acrobatics directly outside his window. The raven swooped, dipped, rolled, and dove in a performance reminiscent of the Snowbirds' annual Canada Day exhibition. Ornithologists speculate that these antics are associ-

ated with courtship displays, or assertions of dominance in a territory, but as the behaviour occurs throughout the year, it's entirely possible that these mischievous birds may just do it for fun!

The **winter finch** population has steadily dwindled in recent weeks, according to Ottawa Field Naturalists Club reports: check [ofnc.ca/recent-bird-sightings](http://ofnc.ca/recent-bird-sightings). Isolated sightings of **white-winged crossbills** and **red crossbills** continued into early March, while **Bohemian waxwings** and **pine siskins** appear to have lingered longest, with as many as 60 Bohemians spotted in Gatineau, Que. recently. Our garden has been virtually winter finch-free this year, with only a small smattering of **common redpolls** paying a brief visit to our nyjer feeder on a chilly day in late February.

No account of late winter in these parts is complete without reference to the ubiquitous presence of **woodpeckers**. Ottawa Field Naturalists Club reports have consistently included sightings of **red-bellied**, **black-backed**, and **red-headed woodpeckers**, along with **yellow-bellied sapsuckers**. And in our



Horned Lark.

Photo by David Howe



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Common Goldeneye.

Photo by David Howe

neighbourhood, you needn't go far before encountering a **pileated-, downy- or hairy woodpecker** busily working away on a tree.

Throughout the winter, it was a rare day when we failed to encounter at least one, and frequently several, **pileated woodpeckers** during our daily dog walks. They're easy to spot, thanks to their powerful drumming, imposing size (18" in length), and bright red markings. The damage they inflict on vulnerable trees through their merciless excavations is often lethal. On one occasion, we watched two large pileateds at work on the same tree, within inches of one another, and regretfully concluded that the venerable maple was not long for this world.

Apart from the large excavations characteristic of pileated woodpecker assaults, close inspection of the trees around us reveals broad range of woodpecker markings, each denoting a specific phase of the hunt for insects. Examples are surface foraging, dubbed "peer and poke," or bark gleaning; clusters of tiny holes or "hunting marks" made while exploring for prey; bark scaling to access insects under the bark; and in the case of dead trees, wholesale bark stripping when huge strips of bark are torn away to access an insect infestation. Learn more at [natureidentification.com](http://natureidentification.com).

### The Great Backyard Bird Count

Many readers may have heard about – or even taken part in

– the annual **Great Backyard Bird Count (birdcount.org)**. This year's count took place Feb. 18–21. The event is one of the largest citizen-science projects in the world and was launched by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society in 1998 to collect data on wild birds. Its primary aim is to help ornithologists monitor global bird populations, which are a critical indicator of ecosystem health.

No expertise is required, and anyone interested can participate. In 2021, more than 300,000 people in 120 countries took part. Canadian participants submitted more than 43,000 listed birds across all 10 provinces and three territories. If you happened to take part in this year's Great Backyard Bird Count, we'd love to receive your tally to share with the community! Drop us a line at [newednews@hotmail.com](mailto:newednews@hotmail.com).

### Reports from our readers

*NEN's* energetic contributing photographer and birder, **David Dawson**, has been out and about locally and as far afield as the Montreal, Que. area where **owls** are abundant this year. David spotted both a **barred owl** just outside Montreal, and a **short-eared owl** in Dorval, but regrettably, had no luck in his search for a **boreal owl**.

Out on the Rideau River, in the vicinity of both Stanley Park and Strathcona Park, David was fascinated to watch large groups of **common goldeneye** "getting ready for spring with their crazy courtship displays [...]"

The female was up on the ice strutting her stuff, while the male swam back and forth, sometimes submarining, springing to the surface, doing his familiar head bob, and shouting out his distinctive display call." David reports that **hooded mergansers** have also returned to the New Edinburgh stretch of the Rideau River.

David's other recent birding highlights included **mourning doves**, **horned larks**, a **Northern hawk owl**, a **Northern screech owl**, a large group of **pine grosbeaks** feasting on fruit trees in Rockcliffe; **pine siskins** between New Edinburgh Park and St. Patrick Street; common redpolls (though in modest numbers), and a fearless **wild turkey** sunning itself on the back of a park bench.

Our British Columbia correspondent **Vicki Metcalfe** reported a rich tally of species sighted on a recent expedition at Viaduct Flats in Saanich, B.C. Among the highlights were groups of **trumpeter swans**, **ring-necked ducks**, **wood ducks**, **mallards**, **gadwall**, **common and hooded mergansers**, **Anna's hummingbirds**, **chestnut-backed chickadees**, **dark-eyed juncos**, **common ravens**, **song sparrows**, **spotted towhee**, **purple finches** and **red-winged blackbirds**.

At the Macoun Marsh off St. Laurent Boulevard at Hemlock Avenue, our regular correspondent and science teacher **Mike Leveille** has recently spotted an abundance of **wild turkeys**, along with **mourning doves** and **American goldfinches**.

Like the rest of us, Mike was delighted to hear the **Northern cardinals** begin their familiar chorus to signal the approach of spring.

**Philip MacAdam's** Avian Bistro (Alexander and Thomas Streets) is bustling these early spring days. **Black-capped chickadees**, **dark-eyed juncos**, **Northern cardinals**, **white-breasted nuthatches**, **American goldfinches**, **house finches** and **pigeons** have all been feasting at the feeders recently. Sadly, the crowd must have caught the eye of a hungry raptor, as Philip's partner Jean found a freshly murdered pigeon on the snow at the back of the house. On the University of Ottawa campus, Philip also encountered

a very fat **American robin** enjoying the last fruits of a crabapple tree.

The month of April is typically among the best times of the year for birdwatching: returning species are moving into the area in large numbers, and are readily visible in their bright breeding plumage. It's also prime time for avian vocalization, so bird spotting becomes a simple matter as your eye is drawn to the cheerful singer. But perhaps most important of all, the trees and shrubs are not yet in full leaf, so the birds are clearly visible in the branches, not yet shrouded in their summer camouflage. Don't miss this rare birding window!



Screech Owl.

Photo by Frank Martin

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CCC volunteer Mac Torrie.



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# More than 2,000 skaters enjoyed the park's ice, thanks to volunteers

**By Sylvain Bélanger,  
President of the Crichton  
Community Council**

Another skating season is behind us. Despite a valiant effort on the part of the New Edinburgh Hosers and rink attendants, we decided to close the rinks in early March. This was also followed by some very warm weather which we have all been enjoying, especially the children on the play structures in New Edinburgh Park.

A special thank you to **Bruce McLaurin** and **Steve Grabner** for their work in building the base ice in December so we could open quickly at the end of that month once the cold weather settled in. We would like to thank the hosers for coming out each and every night to sweep, shovel, and water the rinks. The hosers this year were **Alex Dosman, Roman Mills, Ethan Mills, Caroline Matt, Deepee Khosla, Steven Krigas, Ian Krigas, Jennifer Manning, André Deslauriers, Simon Grosmaître, Paul Fowler, George Dix, Maya Coulombe Grinham, Hope Celani, Manon desGroseilliers** and **Jason Tavoularis**.

Our unsung heroes this year are the rink attendants: **Julien Bélanger, Sam Grabner, Isaac Lipman, Eva Manning Deslauriers, Matéo Manning Deslauriers, Duncan Hunter Neale** and **Mac Torrie** who continued to have COVID-19 supervisory responsibilities this year. The rink attendants missed out on welcoming skaters to the fieldhouse as we were once again restricted in who could enter the facility and under which circumstance. With more than 2,000 skaters over the 10-week skating season, and despite the various public health restrictions imposed because of the pandemic, it was another great skating season. A special thanks goes out to **Nicolas Briggs-Sauvé**, a first-year university student who coordinated all the hosers and rink attendants this winter. A job well done!

If you love your rinks, we are looking for a volunteer rink manager for next skating season and beyond. If we can't find one, the neighbour-

hood may lose out on skating rinks at the park.

As with the rinks, a volunteer base is important. Although we are looking at how we could organize and deliver events this spring, such as the Plant Sale on the Saturday before Mother's Day. As of late March, this event is not yet confirmed.

Activities and events require volunteers, which are in short supply. We also need new members to join the board of the Crichton Community Council. Our annual general meeting is coming up in June.

All board positions will be vacant and need new volunteer members to fill roles.

Volunteering is a way to get to know your neighbours, be social, and make your community a better place. We are always looking for more volunteers, so let us know if you can help out.

Contact us at [CrichtonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com](mailto:CrichtonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com) for details. Follow us on social media: Facebook: @CrichtonCommunityCouncil; Instagram: @CrichtonCommunityCouncil and Twitter: @NEFieldHouse.



Photo by Nicolas Briggs-Sauvé

CCC volunteer Sam Grabner.

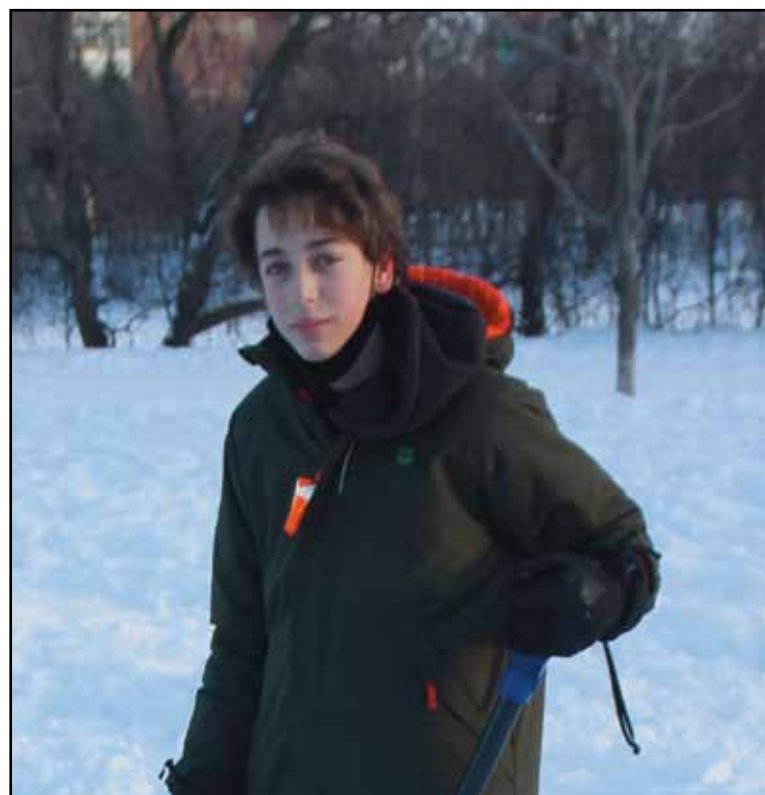


Photo by Nicolas Briggs-Sauvé

CCC volunteer Mateo Manning Deslauriers.



# St. Bart's window campaign off to a strong start

By Meriel Beament  
Bradford

On Remembrance Sunday, Nov. 7, 2021, St. Bartholomew's Anglican Church continued its tradition of recognizing the contribution of Canada's veterans who served their country in times of conflict. Many distinguished guests and military representatives joined the parish for this annual service of remembrance. Afterwards, Rev. Canon David Clunie thanked those who participated in making the service a special act of commemoration, including representatives from the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) and the Governor General's Foot Guards, as well as Gen. John de Chastelain and the Ambassador of Ireland, Dr. Eamonn McKee, and their respective spouses.

It was also the service at which the St. Bart's 2021 Capital Campaign co-chairs Bonnie Robinson and David Esdaile announced the launch of a three-year campaign to raise funds for the restoration of the Wilhelmina Geddes "Ottawa" Window and for improvements to the church facilities to make St. Bart's an even more welcoming place for community events and concerts.

The Honorary Colonel of the Governor General's Foot Guards, Bryan Brulotte, announced a very generous personal gift to the Regiment on the occasion of its 150th anniversary in May 2022, and to St. Bart's for its capital campaign. St. Bart's is known as the "Guard's Chapel" and their regimental colours have been laid up in the church since 1972.

Dr. McKee gave a short address to the congregation in which he spoke of his gratitude for receiving an invitation to learn about the "Irish" window at St. Bart's and his subsequent visit to see the window in all its glory. He called his first impression of the window: "stunning, such a dramatic narrative, impossible to capture its beauty in reproductions."

"This extraordinary masterpiece by an Irish woman artist, Wilhelmina Geddes, is a product of a confluence of influences and connections in



Photo courtesy Rev. Clunie

St. Bartholomew's Church Rev. Canon David Clunie (left) receives a cheque for the St. Bart's Capital Campaign from Bryan Brulotte, Hon. Col. of the Governor General's Foot Guards.

Ireland at the opening of the twentieth century," he said. Dr. McKee, an economic historian, went on to describe the period in Ireland's history between 1916–1919 when Geddes was working on her commission for the Duke of Connaught as a memorial for the men on his staff in Canada who fell in the Great War.

Dr. McKee drew a parallel between the Irish Catholic community in Canada who flocked to the Canadian Expeditionary Force in 1914 and whose sacrifices contributed to the evolution of a modern Canadian identity, and the Irish soldiers who returned from that war to a new Ireland. Alas, their heroism and sacrifices had "no place in the new narrative," he said.

More recently, according to Dr. McKee, Ireland has been recovering the diversity of Irish identity, including those from the Anglo-Irish Ascendancy, such as Geddes and others. Indeed, like Canada, he sees Ireland embracing "diversity and inclusiveness ... signposts to a better future." He is seeking to identify Ireland's past contributions to Canada as well as highlighting the contributions Canadians have made more recently to Ireland.

Dr. McKee concluded by paying tribute to Gen. de Chastelain who played such an important role in the Northern Ireland peace process. He then pointed to the significance of this "Irish" window at St. Bart's and the inspiration that Canada's story provides Ireland to be "finally at peace with itself and its neighbour."

At the conclusion of the service, there was a chance for parishioners to meet their guests and to thank them for their participation in the

annual service of remembrance. Little did the parish know that about a week later, Dr. McKee would ask to return to discuss the window with Canon Clunie. At that meeting, the ambassador presented St. Bart's with a cheque for \$40,000 from the Government of Ireland as a contribution to the campaign

for the restoration of the Geddes "Ottawa" window!

In late February 2022 more good news followed as Mona Fortier, MP for Ottawa-Vanier, called with an exciting announcement. Veterans Affairs Canada had approved St. Bart's application to the Commemorative Partnership Program for a contribution of up to \$25,000 to support the costs of restoring the window. Veterans Affairs also congratulated the parish on its efforts to safeguard a Canadian memorial of the Great War.

With this support from the governments of Canada and Ireland, together with the generous contribution from Bryan Brulotte, the St. Bart's Capital Campaign is well and truly launched. Work on the window is planned for the summer of 2022. Support from friends of St. Bart's is still welcome and will help ensure the successful completion of the project.

To make a contribution, please drop off your cheque at the parish office, 125 MacKay St.; send an e-transfer to [stbarts.campaign@gmail.com](mailto:stbarts.campaign@gmail.com); or donate through [Canadahelps.org](http://Canadahelps.org).

*Meriel Beament Bradford is a former resident of New Edinburgh and a member of St. Bart's Capital Campaign team. She lives in Chelsea, Que.*

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## Tales from the Square: Food and good humour go a long way

By Keith Newton

When friends ask you what it's like living in a retirement home, they may ask about the location or the level of care, but you can be sure they'll ask: "How's the grub?" Of the myriad activities open to the 'rezzers on any given day, the most important are the meals — the social events around which all others revolve. They are regular, reliable, and an opportunity to enjoy company and good food. And the kitchen at New Edinburgh Square (NES) — reputed to be the smallest in the Chartwell chain — does a remarkable job. Consistently good, and frequently delicious fare is served up by ever-patient attendants while the dining room buzzes with conversation. That satisfied feeling of a good meal regularly enjoyed was certainly one source of pleasure during the dark days of the pandemic.

The Food Services function at the Square not only produces contented tummies; it's a source of humour, too. Residents pick up their menus daily and eagerly scan them for exotica. And at this point, I confess, some of us get quite carried away and let our minds take flights of fancy. Will the "ambrosia" be served by angels playing heavenly harp music? Those who remember a fashionable ladies' cocktail of the 1930s are apt to think of the gin and grenadine that must go into the "Pink Lady Squares."

We squirm in mock horror at the thought of the monthly Friday dinners for which poor, innocent little cod and haddock are routinely "battered" for our gustatory delight. To say nothing of the pork chops which are "smothered" before reaching the table. My personal favourite was "salad: chopped Italian." And we like to think that occasionally some brave little vegetables manage to escape and head for the liquor cabinet where they imbibe lustily before being served as "loaded" cauliflower and "pickled" beets.

Ah, humour! A good mood, blithe spirits, or a quick quip or witticism can lighten the darkest day. One often hears some interesting things. One francophone refers to the little Russian tyrant as "Camarade Poutine." An attempted witticism that turned out to be a groaner was greeted with: "Keep trying. You're 50 per cent of the way to being a wit." Some of the humour is self-deprecating, especially about short-term memory loss, although many residents can drag up stories from half a century ago. Thus: "My email address? 'Fraid not. Hell, some days I can't remember what I had for breakfast. Now, did I ever tell you about my summer holiday in 1952?"

Even the unrelentingly bad news occasionally brings light relief, as with the now-famous audio clip of the exchange between the Russian warship

off Snake Island in the Sea of Azov and the two Ukrainian radio operators on Feb. 24. When the Russian commander demanded their surrender or be shelled, an operator promptly told him in no uncertain terms to go away. This was quickly followed up by the second operator (it was a woman's voice): "Just in case you didn't get that, go (and here she invited the Russian to do something that, as far as I know, is anatomically impossible)." This was met with hoots and hollers by the avid news watchers in our Bistro lounge.

A bright smile, a cheery hello and an unfailingly good mood are all hallmarks of 'rezzers Ellen Bouvier, who grew up on a dairy farm near Pendleton, Ont. (yes, she knows how to milk cows). After spending two years in St. Albert, Sask., Ellen came to Ottawa and worked for what was then the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. (DBS as it was known then, was among the first institutions that I, as a young economist, was introduced to on my arrival in Ottawa.)

Ellen married and became a full-time wife and mother, supplementing her education with numerous evening courses. "I was married to a Francophone, but", she says ruefully, "I never really mastered French." Her son, who lives in New Brunswick, visits her at least twice a year and her daughter, who has a hobby farm in Spencerville,



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**Continued from page 20**

Ont., is a frequent visitor. Ellen tells me her favourite music is “classic country.” I recalled a theme party back in my misspent youth (I must have been about 40) at which I won a Willie Nelson look-alike contest. I ventured the name. It elicited a smile and little nod. I tried to remember more country singers. “Hank Williams?” Not a favourite. “Johnny Cash?” Her face brightened. “Do you know Kenny Rogers?” She laughed: “Everyone knows

derful acronym of GULP). Thereafter, a couple of coups. Then the Americans came in and order was eventually restored. This social upheaval and political volatility were no environment for an ambitious young woman. And if they were the push, then an uncle in Toronto was the pull, and that’s how Nelcia first came to Canada.

She arrived in December 1982 and still remembers her disappointment at seeing the bare branches of the trees and her subsequent delight at

its way to the desk of Leann Halpenny, manager of Health and Wellness at NES at the time. Nelcia was quickly taken on. But as shifts were limited and hours accordingly few, Nelcia turned her hand to anything that was available including, in addition to her shifts as a PSW, serving in the dining room and house-keeping. So she is uniquely qualified with first-hand knowledge of many of the principal functions of a residence. That’s what makes her an indispensable receptionist.

One evening recently she was still at her desk when I left the dining room about 7:15 p.m. “Good heavens, Nelcia,” I said, “Go home.” “I can’t,” she replied jokingly. “This place would fall apart.” I recalled the old adage: many a true word is said in jest.

P.S.: Wed. Mar 9, 11:15 p.m. Just finished a first draft of my piece for NEN. A notice has just been slipped under my door. It’s from the General Manager: “Departure Notice: Nelcia Liburd... Nelcia has accepted the posi-

tion of Office Manager at a sister Chartwell residence in Ottawa.” Farewell and best wishes to Nelcia! You will be missed at the Square.

*Former Crichton Street resident Keith Newton moved into the New Edinburgh Square just before the pandemic hit in March 2020. He is a retired research economist and professor, and an avid creative writer. This is the fourth in his series “Tales from the Square” on life in a retirement residence during the pandemic.*

*Some of us get quite carried away and let our minds take flights of fancy. Will the ‘ambrosia’ be served by angels playing harp music?*

Kenny Rogers.” I felt that I’d passed some kind of test.

Ellen’s been at the Square for six years now and has served as Treasurer of the NES Residents’ Association. This cheerful woman can be summed up by her motto: “You must have fun!”

Meanwhile, let me tell you about our receptionist Nelcia Liburd, who grew up with her grandmother on a substantial acreage on the Caribbean island of Grenada, north-east of Trinidad and Tobago. Nelcia credits her grandmother with instilling the virtues of hard work and determination – attributes Nelcia also shares with her mother, who became a Superintendent of Police. Grenada is a little gem with a colourful history. After the French colonizers came the British, from whom Grenada declared independence in 1974. There followed a period of political instability in which the exotically named New Jewel Movement wrenched power from the Grenada United Labour Party (with the won-

derful acronym of GULP). She first worked as a nanny in Toronto and has worked in some aspect of care ever since. She married a doctor in 1989 and they travelled to several assignments in the Caribbean. One posting took them to Glasgow, Scotland, from 1991–1995. She recalls the British weather: “It’s the damp, you know. You get chilled to the bone and your feet are like blocks of ice.” She contrasts that with Canada where one can enjoy clear, cold days of pristine blue skies and sunshine. After returning to Canada, her son was born in Toronto in 1999. She tells me proudly that he will graduate from Carleton this June with a degree in Aeronautical Engineering.

How did Nelcia come to the Square? Well, she studied for her Personal Support Worker certification at Herzing College. Then fate – or destiny, or plain old luck – came into play. A glowing recommendation from the college, sent by email, found

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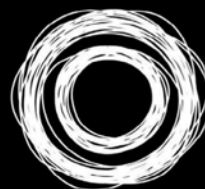
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# Getting away from it all...almost

By Janet Ruddock

There's nothing sadder than unopened Christmas gifts in February. My husband, Frank, ever the optimist, said, "Think of the mileage our beautiful wrapping gets." Why the gifts remained unopened involved various people testing COVID-positive at different times. Mild symptoms, but plans were delayed, and delayed again. Throw in an inclement weather postponement in January and our small family get-together had not managed to get it together.

Then arrived the Family Day holiday weekend! How appropriate for a belated Christmas. Perfect, except for the dreadful weather report for Thursday right through Monday. Everyone involved was driving some distance to my cousin's country home, our traditional gathering place. Frank was determined to leave on Thursday, the least-horrible day for the four-hour trip. And Thursday was, indeed, horrible. A heavy rain fell on all icy surfaces, leaving them water-covered and treacherous.

Our luggage, gifts, sundry

bags, and a cooler full of goodies were all set to go. We had a lot of stuff. But would they make it to the car in one piece? Would Frank? "We don't have to leave today," I offered that morning, for what it was worth.

"Of course, we do," said Frank, the self-proclaimed leader of the expedition. "The driving will be even worse tomorrow." I gave up. Why bother? Days before, my concerns over the car's heater blower breaking down had been similarly overruled. The said blower was on back-order by the dealership. But isn't blowing warm air at the windshield during winter rather critical? Especially so when undertaking a road trip in bad weather?

According to Frank, apparently not. Even without the blower, hot air blew just fine at highway speeds. He'd driven several times within the past week. The car warmed up perfectly. As did the seat heaters. Direct the front vents at the window. No problem. However, I could see several problems.

Our usual trip to the country goes through several small

towns. We don't generally whizz through these at highway speed. What if traffic backs up for miles? Freezing rain doesn't like a cold windshield. What about a flat-tire change, then trying to defrost the front window? Honestly, I could see these problems and plenty more. I am not, as a rule, a worrier. Despite my husband's somewhat cavalier

falling under it.

And where was Frank? No doubt slipping and sliding his way to get the car from the garage on Avon Lane. The CBC radio weather guy had warned of treacherous roads and sidewalks. Take heed all those who venture forth, or words to that effect. Apparently, Frank had, indeed, taken heed. Driving

there. Quiet? Well, not so much. There was plenty of noise up there on Parliament Hill. While we'd long passed our tolerance limit, we weren't suffering like those closer to the mayhem. We could hear the noise right then. We were thrilled to be leaving the city. Couldn't leave soon enough, horrible driving or not.

Twenty minutes later, the brilliance of Frank's plan was there for all to see. Car loaded, ready to go on our belated Christmas trip, and no broken bones for Frank. He re-parked the car the right way to allow me to get in the passenger side safely. "Well, that's done without a trip to ER," Frank proclaimed.

He started the car and did the usual out-loud checklist: luggage, wallets, gifts, oven off, door locked. I noticed something else. "Frank, what's that soggy bit of paper shoved under the windshield wiper? Is that a parking ticket?"

And so it should be. Those lawless Ruddocks, think they can get away with anything. Not in Ottawa they can't. No one parks illegally anywhere...except the truckers.

Janet Ruddock and her husband Frank have settled in New Edinburgh after a nomadic life with *Global Affairs Canada*. Janet is a writer, traveler, lover of the arts, and advocate for those with *Rheumatoid Arthritis* and *chronic pain*.

*The CBC had warned of treacherous roads. Take heed all those who venture forth, or words to that effect.*

attitude to our discussion, I continued to worry. In my mind, I threw a car blanket into our goods to go.

Thursday morning, our main worry was just getting the show on the road. I wisely stayed out of the rain, supervising from the vestibule. The sidewalk was ice-free with snow-plow salt, as was the road. But the 12 feet of sheer ice in between was a problem. I had no idea how Frank would carry bags across that ice without killing himself. Then load the car without

slowly down MacKay, he three-point-turned the car in front of the house, then parked facing the wrong direction.

What? I then watched him step out from the driver's side directly onto the bare sidewalk. No need to step onto that stretch of ice at all. Brilliant. Legal? Well, no, but these were extenuating circumstances. This was winter weather-watch, big time. Treading carefully on our salt-covered walkway, Frank came into the house for the first of the baggage. Back and forth to the car he trudged, gradually loading up the car. This was going to take a while.

Not a sign of anyone else, vehicle or pedestrian, out



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A collage featuring some of the musicians that National Arts Centre Orchestra violinist and New Edinburgh resident Leah Roseman has interviewed in her podcast: *Conversations with Musicians with Leah Roseman*.  
Collage courtesy of Leah Roseman

## Burgh violinist finds curiosity and joy in podcast chats with fellow musicians

By Leah Roseman

I am a violinist and a member of the National Art Centre Orchestra (NACO). In June 2021, I started a podcast and video series called *Conversations with Musicians with Leah Roseman*. We're all living through some very difficult times, and I hoped this series would bring a sense of curiosity, joy and connection to all my listeners, as it does to me.

Several amazing and internationally renowned Ottawa-based musicians have been featured in the 28 episodes released as of Mar 6, 2022. With Roddy Elias (Season 1, Episode 12) we discussed his 2022 album *Not This Room*: a set of inspiring songs commissioned by the Ottawa Jazz Festival as a reflection of the pandemic. The album features lyrics by Ottawa writer Sandra Nicholls and the singer Kellylee Evans.

I featured Kellylee, the award-winning singer, songwriter, and motivational speaker, in Season 2, Episode 4. We spoke about the many challenges she has faced, including two near-death experiences. Kellylee performed an incredible *a capella* performance of one of the most-requested songs in her repertoire, "Feelin' Good."

The podcast has featured several of my colleagues,

such as New Edinburgh resident Christopher Millard (Season 2, Episode 5), who will be retiring as the NACO's principal bassoonist in a few months' time. The conversation included many fascinating insights into the orchestra profession, the benefits of his early jazz training, the physics of sound production on both the bassoon and violin, great advice on how best to practice music, and much more.

Concertmaster Yosuke Kawasaki (Season 1, Episode 3) spoke very thoughtfully about his early training, the role of concertmaster, and his advice for professionals doing auditions: "My advice is try to be honest with yourself, I suppose; try to really be aware of your strengths and weaknesses. My teacher, Dorothy DeLay, was so great at paying compliments. She always started off the lesson, no matter how bad I played or how bad anyone played, with a compliment. She would always say, 'Honey, you have the most beautiful sound,' and then she'll go off and just start dissecting everything that was wrong with the playing. But I think that's super important, to really know what it is that you do well."

Carissa Klopoushak had recently been appointed Chamberfest's artistic director when we spoke in Season

1, Episode 2. On the topic of live-streaming and the purpose of concerts, she said: "I think it's going to be something that's here to stay, but I think we all know that there's a magic that's created in the room that is irreplaceable [...] And it's about thinking about how and why people are gathering, and what the intention behind it is, and how to facilitate things so that it does what you want it to do." She spoke about her strong Ukrainian roots and performed traditional Ukrainian tunes both vocally and on violin.

With NACO principal trumpet Karen Donnelly (Season 1, Episode 9) we talked about the challenges facing women in the brass world, the importance of mentors, and some of the fun and unique outreach she has been doing.

Another musician from Ottawa is Kerson Leong. In our chat (Season 1, Episode 8) I found him to be as eloquent in the way he talks about music as he is in his violin playing: "It just suddenly became a necessity for life, for living, for the exploration of yourself, just a necessity for growing up as well," he said. "I think a lot of it happens not only, of course, with music education, the importance of that, but also the importance of the mindset that you have

when you practice. I know that, of course, when you're young, practicing might not be the most natural thing [...] But I think it's a worthwhile thing to find pleasure in little details."

I also spoke with three newcomers to Ottawa: flutist and scholar Ellen Waterman discussed her many projects, her perspectives on the music industry and the nature of creativity. "The thing that we often lose is that notion of play," she said. "The stakes are so low, and yet those of us who have been trained in literate music traditions can feel very scared to improvise, to step away from the score and just make sound."

In Season 1, Episode 19, I welcomed the wonderful musician Hooshyar Khayam

to my home to play with me and to speak about his perspectives on improvisation, Western Classical Music, and the music of Central Asia and the Middle East.

Also new to the region is violinmaker Theo Marks (Season 1, Episode 7), who is one of the amazing Marks brothers: Jethro and David Marks are well-known to NACO audiences.

You can find all the links for both video and podcast versions (and bonus episodes and soon transcripts) at [leahroseman.com](http://leahroseman.com) and the podcast is available wherever you listen to your podcasts: search for *Conversations with Musicians with Leah Roseman*.

Violinist Leah Roseman lives in New Edinburgh.



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# Nash's connectivity approach is an antidote for social isolation

By John Leefe

As pandemic restrictions relax by varying degrees, our need to socially reconnect has likely never been more urgent. To ease our transition back to some semblance of normalcy, Jen Nash's new self-help book, *The Big Power of Tiny Connections: How Small Interactions Spark Awesome Outcomes*, could not have been released at a more appropriate time.

Nash is a New York-based facilitator, strategic advisor,

er would talk to almost any stranger in any situation and it "was precisely these small moments that would lead me to understand how powerfully connective, motivating, and supporting our interaction with the world can be."

Clocking in at about 200 pages, Nash's book is structured in three parts with plenty of practical and easily digestible advice on the power of connectivity to benefit both individuals and communities.

In "Hoping for Connection,"

someone doubts their skills, talents, or accomplishments so they suffer a constant internalized fear of being exposed as a fraud." Each excuse is addressed with practical strategies to help overcome the negative "voice in your head that is holding you back." For example: Nash advises people to acknowledge negative thoughts "and realize they are just that – thoughts" and "focus on the small wins and the momentum built by those tiny changes can build up quickly."

Her refreshing approach for dealing with these common excuses is both pithy and realistic, especially "What's the Point?" segments that neatly sum up each chapter.

In Part Two, Nash focuses on the specifics of how improving your "connection capacity" can make anything happen: being the life of the party, earning you more money, landing you a better job, or spicing up your romantic life. Her infectious positivity infuses every page, buttressed with numerous real-life examples of how people adopting the "connection mindset" have transformed their lives for the better.

Particularly effective are the "Let Me Tell You a Story" segments in which she exemplifies her key messages. Based on both her own experiences and those of her friends, these stories amplify the advice by grounding them in reality. One story that resonates

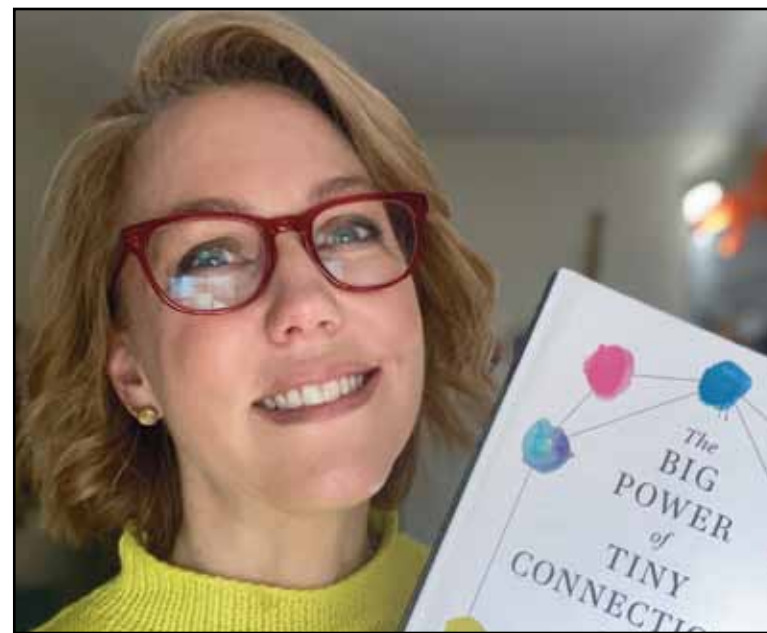


Photo courtesy Mickey Mikkelsen

New York-based strategic advisor and author of *The Big Power of Tiny Connections* Jen Nash graduated from Ashbury College in Rockcliffe Park.

*One story that resonates well is how a chance encounter with an Ottawa bartender resulted in a wild adventure across Panama.*

executive coach, and corporate speaker, who spent part of her youth in Ottawa, and graduated from Ashbury College.

A passionate believer in how human connections can transform our work and social life (whether by chance or design), Nash emphasizes that "opportunities come when you're talking to someone in the supermarket checkout line, Motor Vehicle office, lying by the pool at a fancy hotel in Maui, or pushing your bike down a desolate road looking to get the tire fixed." This worldview has been rooted in Nash since childhood: she tells us in the prologue that her moth-

Nash explains the many physical and mental benefits of better human connectivity, citing scientific studies showing that isolation can weaken immune systems, lead to obesity, and impede career progression. She delineates some of the many reasons why people are reluctant to connect with strangers, citing some common fears. She also lists some of the classic excuses people have for avoiding social contact, from the common "I don't have the time" to the "I don't like idle chitchat" impediments, among others. Many people will relate, especially to the "pesky imposter syndrome," defined as "the pattern where

well is how a chance encounter with an Ottawa bartender resulted in a wild adventure across Panama, where she met a famous senator and TV host who ended up rescuing her from a Panamanian jail.

She also transitions from the "me" to "we" in a chapter devoted to improving society through connectivity and encouraging people to be more altruistic by sharing their gifts, knowledge, connections, and resources.

Referencing the Burning Man principles, she examines how practices like radical inclusion, self-reliance, and civic responsibility can inspire individuals to act for the common good. Nash articulates this symbiotic approach to community through observations like "it makes perfect sense that you can make people's days a million times better by doing small acts of radical thoughtfulness, ramping up thoughtfulness to a level that's not expected."

The logical result of this approach, she says, is to become a "super-connector," described as "someone who is always cross-pollinating their social network" by introducing everyone they know to everyone else. She emphasizes that applying your social network to all walks of life has "legit benefits for health, hearts, and mutual well-being."

Part Three provides more examples of how to achieve

the connection mindset almost anywhere, like at children's sporting events, in grocery stores, bathroom lineups, concerts, and conferences. Nash stresses some tactics for improving listening skills and provides specific scenarios on what to say when you want to work a room of strangers or gracefully exit a work or social event. There is repetition in the messaging, but the cumulative effect is nevertheless effective, particularly in our social media-obsessed culture.

Overall, there is a ton of positive inspiration dispensed in *The Big Power of Tiny Connections*. And thanks to a snappy, jargon-free writing style and the "What's the Point?" synopses at the end of most chapters, Nash's advice is easy to digest. Perhaps what makes the book stand out from other self-help guides is its liberal use of pertinent, real-life stories that act as a touchstone to motivate us to get off the couch and connect more through random acts of kindness that can transform our communities. As Nash astutely concludes: "When we're intentionally kind and connective, we leave room for a whole world of magic to unfold."

*The Big Power of Tiny Connections* by Jen Nash is available at Books on Beechwood.

Recently retired public servant John Leefe lives in Lindenlea.

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# Retirement has proven anything but for Burgh-based senator

By Marta M. Reyes

After retiring from a successful and prolific career in the foreign service, Peter Boehm returned to Ottawa for good. But rather than kicking back in retirement, he was almost immediately appointed to the Senate of Canada in the fall of 2018 as an independent Senator from Ontario. In the Red Chamber, he currently serves as Chair of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

"It was a smooth transition," he says about the move from the public service to the Senate. "I had been living abroad for about half of my career, so coming back to the Senate on foreign affairs matters was a good fit." Peter says his post as senator has given him a renewed appreciation for Canada and the policies that have been put in place in the grip of the global pandemic. In fact, he watched some of the more defining moments on some of the population's reactions to COVID-19 restrictions from his office during the recent occupation by protesters who set up camp in front of Parliament.

From the time he became a senator, Peter chose to go to work in-person. During the pandemic he continued walking to work, even during the recent convoy occupation – a commute that gave him a unique view of what was happening downtown. He says he walked among the protesters and even spoke with some of them. Like many New Edinburgh residents, he could hear the horns blaring in the distance even when he was at home. But he says the prevalent emotion was frustration with the protesters setting up camp in front of the Parliament buildings for more than three weeks. Peter says he supports protests in general, but he felt that the protesters should have left much earlier and not caused so much disruption and disrespect to the residents who work and live in the core.

"It was a really strange and disappointing time in Ottawa," he recalls. He was part of the debate that took place in the Senate on whether to confirm the prime min-

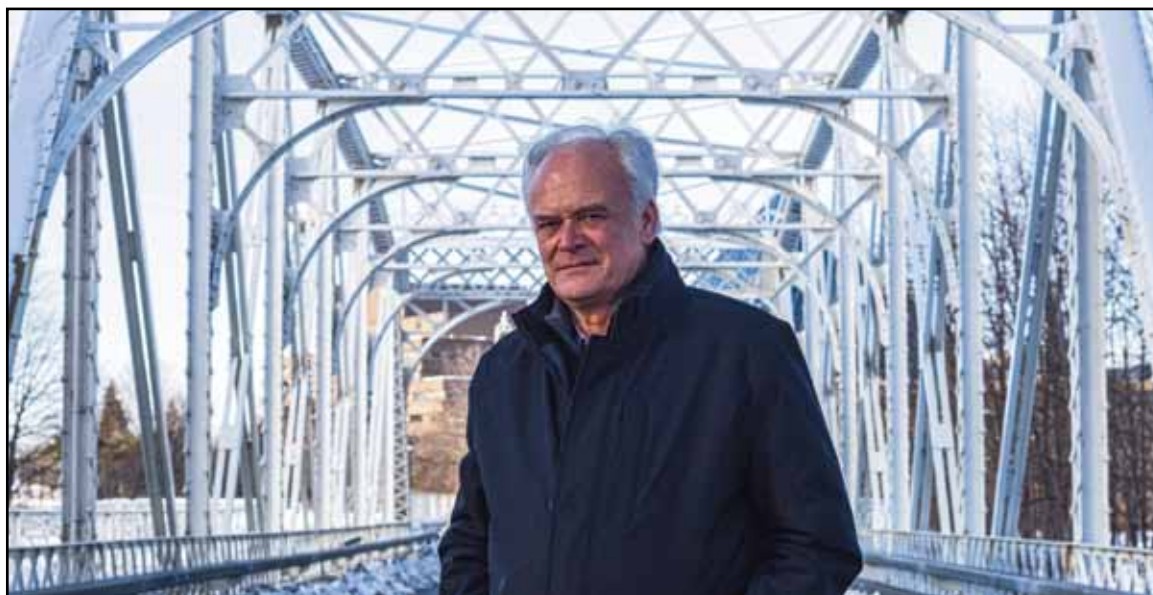


Photo by Alexander McKenzie

**Independent Senator Peter Boehm spent half his career abroad with Global Affairs Canada. Back in New Edinburgh, he now works in-person at the Senate.**

ister's decision to invoke the Emergencies Act to help end the occupation. "I've never seen anything quite like it, not here in Canada, not even in some of the countries where I've lived," Peter said of the occupation.

And he would know, having served as ambassador in Germany and holding diplomatic posts in the United States, Cuba, and Costa

Rica. Peter also was deputy minister for the G8 and G7 Summits and the personal representative of the prime minister from July 2017 until his retirement. Before that, he worked at Global Affairs Canada (GAC) in different capacities, including as deputy minister of International Development. In his current position as chair of the Senate Standing Committee

on Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Peter says the situation in Ukraine is deeply troubling, a sentiment shared by many Canadians.

Peter lives in New Edinburgh with his family and has close ties to the community and an attachment to everything the neighbourhood offers, including its proximity to the Rideau River and its views, parks, and restaurants. When he

and his family lived abroad, they rented out their house in New Edinburgh so they could return to it and enjoy the neighbourhood when his posting was over.

Living in many countries has given Peter and his family an appreciation for other cultures and for learning different languages, including German and Spanish, which he speaks fluently. The interest in international matters runs deep in his family: his wife, Julia, also works at GAC and one of his sons lives in Hungary. However, as many who have lived and worked abroad can attest, coming back to Canada after being away makes you appreciate your country even more.

Now firmly settled back home, Peter thinks he's back where he really belongs. "It always felt special to return home to Ottawa," he says.

*Marta M. Reyes has lived in New Edinburgh for more than 15 years with her two children and a dog. She is a public servant by day and hockey mom most evenings.*

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# Vacant space in park ideal for therapeutic public art

By Vicky Henry

There are many ways in which we share our grief: headstones, burial sites, religious services, tree markers, walks. There is an unusual method in Japan that I would love to see in New Edinburgh Park.

It is called a “wind phone.” Inside an old-fashioned glass phone booth is an unconnected phone where visitors can hold one-way conversations with deceased loved ones. You

can tell your departed loved ones how you are doing, and how much they are missed. It may sound corny to some but talking to someone who is no longer with us can be very therapeutic!

If I had access to a wind phone, I would call my son who grew up in our park, threw snowballs, built forts, set off firecrackers, learned to ski and chased the French kids who chased the English kids – all in good fun.

I could call others in my life who shared the park as our backyard, even as the community struggled to ensure its existence in the 1970s by blocking the extension of the Vanier Parkway.

There is a concrete pad beside the tennis court and the exercise area near the path along the river. It was installed more than a decade ago with the city’s permission as a base for a large sculpture by a private citizen.

Unfortunately, the sculpture, which was made of fibreglass, was vandalized by someone who either didn’t like it, or who just wanted to create mischief. The sculpture was destroyed, and the pad has stood empty ever since. It would be a perfect support for a telephone booth: high enough off the ground to be easily cleaned and away from the seasonal mud and grasses.

Such an idea would need community support to keep it clean and protected, but I think if it was created as a community project, it could have that support. Such a project would require permission from the city, a plan to ensure its proper maintenance, and the funds to procure an old phone booth or create one.

If you would like to work on the “wind phone” project or have comments on its value to the community, please send a note to Victoria Henry at [victoria.henry366@gmail.com](mailto:victoria.henry366@gmail.com) or Bruce McLaurin at [bruce.mclaurin@gmail.com](mailto:bruce.mclaurin@gmail.com).



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### Montreal Road Revitalization: Traffic and Transit Detours

Construction on Montreal Road is resuming this spring between North River Road and St. Laurent Boulevard. Starting on Sunday, April 24, 2022, Montreal Road will be reduced to a single westbound lane between the Vanier Parkway and St. Laurent Boulevard. Eastbound motorists and cyclists will be detoured to McArthur Avenue. OC Transpo routes 12, 15 and 20 will also be detoured. The detours will be in place until mid-September 2022.

To view the detour maps and learn more, please visit [ottawa.ca/montrealroad](http://ottawa.ca/montrealroad).



  
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# Local church a popular spot for recordings and concerts



Photo by Alexander McKenzie

MacKay United Church on Dufferin at MacKay is available for music performances and recordings.

## By Eleanor Dunn

MacKay United Church's sanctuary is not just a place for worship and prayer. It is also a recording studio, favoured by Ottawa musicians for its acoustics.

The latest to use the facility is award-winning guitarist Roddy Ellias, who makes his home in Ottawa. It's one more surprise collaboration from the church's Kindness of Jazz work which is supported by the United Church of Canada and its Eastern Ontario/Outaouais Regional Council.

Last September, Roddy assembled a super-group of Canadian and American musicians to lay down tracks for *Not This Room*, a collection reflecting the pandemic experience. A major grant from the Canada Council for the Arts made it possible.

Juno Award-winning vocalist and lyrical interpreter Kellylee Evans is featured on the album, with Roddy on acoustic steel guitar; Marc Copland on piano; Justin Orok on nylon string guitar; Chris Pond on bass; Jose Garcia on percussion; Petr Cancura (a familiar name to Ottawa International Jazz Festival attendees) on reeds

and mandolin; Guy Pelletier on flute; Richard Pelletier on bass clarinet; and Pierre Yves Martel on viola de Gamba.

In addition to the album, the group also recorded a music video, evoking the beauty of MacKay's sanctuary.

Prior to the pandemic shutdown of in-person events, MacKay United had a reputation for being the "music church" in New Edinburgh due to its chamber concerts and "Jazz in June" series. Leah Roseman has been instrumental (no pun intended) in organizing the chamber concerts with Carolyn Bowker, a member of the church. Leah and her husband Mark Friedman (the couple are National Arts Centre violinists) use MacKay's sanctuary for their student master classes and student recordings and have done so for many years. (Learn more about Leah's new podcast series on p. 23)

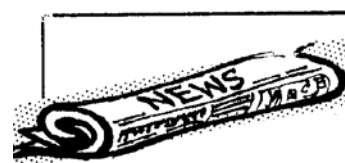
Some chamber concert musicians — Frederic Lacroix, Christian Vachon, and Gertrude Letourneau — have returned to use MacKay's sanctuary for recording specific pieces. And local coach and music professor David MacAdam has held many recording sessions for

students applying for university music programs at both undergraduate and master's degree levels.

Over the years, other musicians have used MacKay's facility to record albums, including Tracy Whelan, Joanna Estelle, and the Capital Brass Works.

For information about renting MacKay's sanctuary for concerts or recording, contact the church office at 613-749-8727. The current rental charge for concerts with an audience is \$125 per hour and insurance is required. For recordings with no audience, the current rental fee for a small group session is \$50 per hour with no insurance required. There is a two-hour minimum for all sanctuary rentals.

With pandemic restrictions being lifted, MacKay United is moving to return to its place as a hub for community events in New Edinburgh. Activities including fitness classes and CityKidz programming in support of low-income families. Music lessons are also available via MacKay's website: [mackayunited.ca](http://mackayunited.ca). Hall space is available at current rental charge of \$50 per hour, with a two-hour minimum and insurance required.



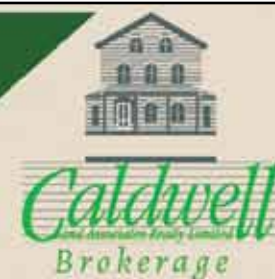
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## Library book sale collecting again, hopeful for 2023 event

By Linda McDonald

Since March 2020, when the Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale team had to cancel our annual April event, we have been busy. Once it was clear that there would be no book sale at all in 2020 (despite dreams of holding the sale in September) we had to figure out what to do with all the donations, as we have limited storage capability.

We were very fortunate in that a local second-hand book dealer wanted to purchase our books. Once we agreed on mutually acceptable terms and timing, the dealer picked up the books and we returned our rented storage pod. Then we turned our attention to the audio-visual materials, which was trickier. Ultimately, we donated the LPs and CDs, while most DVDs remain in volunteer Iola Price's basement. In the summer of 2020, Iola was able to sell some DVDs.

The Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale team initiated the first Contactless Book Drive in November of 2020 which was held on a warm, sun-filled day. We continued these

book drives in 2021 and thus were able to raise additional funds.

Under normal circumstances, we sell books throughout the year from a bookcase in the Rockcliffe Park library branch. In 2021, we were able to re-institute these "sales shelves." Although most of the books are fiction, we also offer some biography, history, and other non-fiction. We have recently started to offer some children's books and a few DVDs as well. We encourage residents to peruse the book sale shelves; once you choose your item, simply pay at the library desk.

In January 2022, we held our Annual General Meeting (though not quite an annual meeting, as it covered two years). We provided funds to the Ottawa Public Library for things including the purchase of books to increase the collection, newspaper and magazine subscriptions, an enhanced Express program (for books and DVDs), program funding, and a contribution to the new Ottawa Public Library. This last item was unusual for the Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale team

but given the capacity issues relating to programming activities in 2020, we decided that contributing even a modest amount to the new Library demonstrates our commitment to the broader library system in Ottawa.

So, what is next for us in 2022? We plan to continue with the contactless book drives. If the pandemic "behaves" as we all hope it will, there is a possibility for a 2023 Spring Book Sale. For this to happen, we would need to start receiving donations in the autumn and hope that our volunteers are able to return in full force. Our main concern is for the safety of the volunteers, so the approach we take will depend totally on how the pandemic evolves over the next six months.

The Spring Book Sale needs volunteers to share the managerial load. If you are interested in helping, contact Linda McDonald at [olive099@outlook.com](mailto:olive099@outlook.com). Meanwhile, watch for updates about our next Book Drive, likely in May 2022.

Linda McDonald is co-manager of the Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale.

## Meet the OPL's loan stars

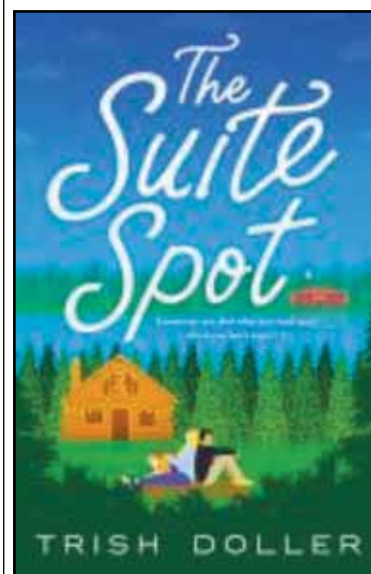
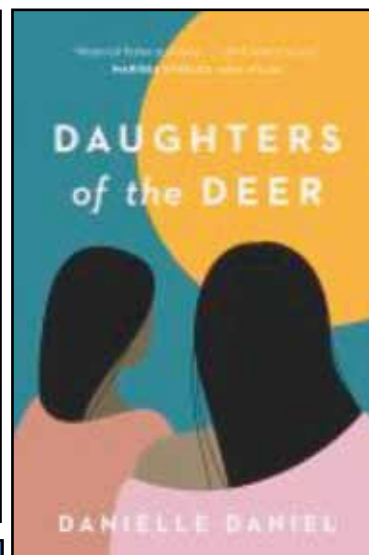
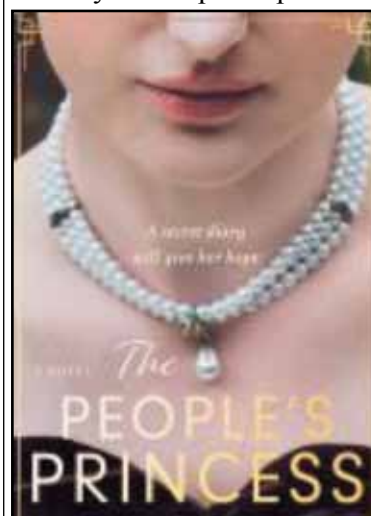
Have you heard about Loan Stars at your local library? Loan Stars is a program that allows library staff across Canada to collaboratively select their favourite forthcoming titles. The online catalogue service is available for free to libraries, and library staff can endorse the fiction, non-fiction, juvenile, and young adult titles they want to recommend to their patrons. The titles with the most recommendations each month become Loan Stars picks!

Some Ottawa Public Library staff participate in

the Loan Stars program and add their votes to those of librarians across Canada. Each month the top picks are published on the library's website; one more way to add to your "To Be Read" list! You can place a hold on these, or past Loan Star picks at your local library branch, or through the website at [bibliooottawalibrary.ca](http://bibliooottawalibrary.ca).

—Martha Hodgson, librarian at the Rockcliffe Park branch.

Here are the Adult Fiction Loan Star recommendations for March 2022:



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# Fundraising concert for Cambodian children sends message of peace to the people of Ukraine

By Flora Liebich

You are warmly invited to join In Concert for Cambodia (IC4C) on May 1 at 7 p.m. for our upcoming virtual spring concert.

Like people everywhere, Cambodians are devastated by what is happening in Ukraine. They are well-placed to understand the horrors of conflict and war. We are therefore calling our spring concert "Music for Peace" and have chosen a repertoire to echo this message.

Pianist **Victoria Wong**, currently completing her Master's degree at the Julliard School of Music in New York, will perform music by Chopin and Bach. Victoria was among the finalists in the 18th Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw, Poland, last fall. Toronto-based violinist **Xueao Yang** and cellist **Kendra Grittani** will each perform music by Bach. Both musicians performed in the 2021 Montreal Chamber Music Festival with Les Jeunes Virtuoses de Montréal. For a change of pace, IC4C Youth Coordinator **Kyle Burghout** will play traditional and original medleys on fiddle.

To join us at the May 1 YouTube premiere, please send an email to [inconcert-4cambodia@gmail.com](mailto:inconcert-4cambodia@gmail.com). You can also view the concert as of May 2 on [inconcert4cambodia.ca](http://inconcert4cambodia.ca).

We are hoping that by the fall, we'll be able to host home concerts once again. We'll keep you posted!

The IC4C concerts, which started in 2006, continue to support The Peaceful Children's Home (PCH2) in Battambang, Cambodia. In addition to providing food, education and medical care, IC4C is particularly proud of having sent 12 of its students to university.

We are thrilled to congratulate 25-year-old **Dang Lita** who recently graduated in midwifery from the Battambang Health Science Training Center. Lita, who came from an impoverished family, was admitted to PCH2 at age 13, allowing her to continue her studies and pursue her dream of becoming a

midwife. Lita is now proud to be working as a midwife in the Sovann Poly Clinic in Battambang.

"I grew up in the poor village of Ampil Pram Deurm, a former Khmer Rouge stronghold in Bavel district, Battambang province," says Lita. "Life there was dangerous as the village and surrounding area were full of unexploded ord-

nances [left over from the Khmer Rouge period]. Life for the family was very difficult; my parents were often unemployed, finding work occasionally as village laborers or migrant workers. In 2014, my uncle took me to PCH2 in Battambang so that I could continue my studies, have a good place to stay and enough to eat.

"The reason I want to be a midwife is so I can help people. I have witnessed many mothers in my village deliver their baby by themselves. Many times, the mother or the baby died during or after the delivery. My village was far from the health center and people could not go to the health center because the road was so bad. Graduating

and now working as a midwife is a dream come true!" says Lita.

You can support In Concert for Cambodia with e-transfer donations made to [inconcert-4cambodia@gmail.com](mailto:inconcert-4cambodia@gmail.com) or by donating online at [inconcert-4cambodia.ca](http://inconcert-4cambodia.ca).

*Flora Liebich is a coordinator with IC4C Coordinator. She lives in New Edinburgh.*

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# Children's Festival returns in person with the finest in performing arts

By Kaitlynn Steele

The Ottawa Children's Festival de la jeunesse (OCF) is bringing its full festival back to LeBreton Flats Park and beyond! This year we will have shows running May 19–29 at Arts Court (2 Daly Ave.), the Canadian War Museum (1 Vimy Pl.) and LeBreton Flats Park (Sir John A. Macdonald Parkway).

This multi-day theatrical

extravaganza will feature award-winning artists from around the world, taking the stage to inspire audiences of all ages to ignite their creativity and imagination through thought-provoking performances.

Full details can be found on our website – [ottawachildrensfestival.ca](http://ottawachildrensfestival.ca) – and shows will include:

**How to Catch a Star** *Branar Téatar do Pháistí*, Ireland (45 min., Ages 4+, non-verbal). Combining puppetry, a magical original score, and Branar's signature storytelling which reminds us all to follow our dreams.

**A Story of a House That Turned Into a Dot** *Teatret Gruppe 38*, Denmark (40

min., Ages 8+, English). A whimsical shadow play about how long the road home is when you run away in anger.

**Countries Shaped Like Stars** *Di Gaetano and Pearlman, Ontario* (45 min., Ages 6+, English). A love story that explores the tender tale of fairy Gwendolyn and her love among the stars.

**The Librarian** *Brú Theatre, Ireland* (40 minutes, All ages, English). A one-person tour de force that celebrates the love of reading, the joy of language, and the sheer delight of words!

**Tweet Tweet!** *Femmes du Feu, Ontario* (40 mins, Ages 0–5, English). Two performers take on the roles of young birds, exploring the relation-

ship between babies and their parents in this interactive performance. A show for the wee ones!

**The original "Machine de Cirque" show**, *Machine de Cirque Quebec* (90 min., All ages, Non-verbal). The best in Nouveau Cirque, five acrobats and musicians amaze with their breath-taking, hilarious, and reckless acts.

**La grenouille au fond du puits croit que le ciel est rond (The frog, at the bottom of the well, believes that the sky is round)** *Vélo Théâtre, France* (75 min., Ages 5+, offered in English and French). A "memory" play by a storyteller who takes us by the hand through his world of collected dreams and memories – a story told through objects, light, and magic!

**Returns Department** *The Kif-Kif Sisters, Quebec* (50 min., Ages 5–10, Bilingual production - French/English). Combining physical theatre,

circus, visual arts, and puppetry, this is a playful look behind the scenes of a production line.

The OCF family is thrilled to welcome audiences back to in-person events in a safe, family-friendly environment. In addition to captivating performances, the Festival also includes a variety of onsite educational workshops and activities to enhance your visit and to make artists out of each and every one of you.

For ticket information, visit [ottawachildrensfestival.ca](http://ottawachildrensfestival.ca). The Ottawa Children's Festival is proud to offer great discounts for schools, daycares, and any group of 10 or more. For more details contact our Festival Coordinator, Joni Hamlin at [joni@ottawachildrensfestival.ca](mailto:joni@ottawachildrensfestival.ca).

Kaitlynn Steele is the outreach and digital specialist for the Ottawa Children's Festival de la jeunesse.

## Keep up with The Burgh online!



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# EVENTS CALENDAR

Send event listing details to [newednews@hotmail.com](mailto:newednews@hotmail.com) Visit [newedinburgh.ca/events](http://newedinburgh.ca/events) for the most up-to-date listings.

## APRIL

**April to July – Recreational Canine Agility Course**  
Classes offered by the Keshet Rescue at their kennel in Carlsbad Springs just a 20-minute drive from downtown. [happyfidocompany.com](http://happyfidocompany.com), [info@keshetkennels.com](mailto:info@keshetkennels.com)  
Happy Fido Company owner Fumie Watanabe and her dog trainer friend Claudia will be teaching beginner and intermediate levels of this canine agility course. All breeds are welcome. A portion of the proceeds goes to the rescue.

**Mondays – New Edinburgh Community Choir** at Mackay United Church's Memorial Hall, 39 Dufferin Rd. \$20 drop-in. Every Monday (except Easter Monday, April 18) the New Edinburgh Community Choir welcomes singers, regardless of experience, to its practice. Male voices particularly welcome! Masks must be worn at all times. Vaccine certificates mandatory. Email [newechoir@gmail.com](mailto:newechoir@gmail.com) for more info.

**Thursdays – Tea & Conscious Community** happening online. \$15. No experience required. Contact [briyafreeman@gmail.com](mailto:briyafreeman@gmail.com) for info. Join us for an evening of breathwork, meditation, and conversations for evolutionary times. Relaxing, fun, inspiring and rejuvenating. You need a space to lie down and relax completely.

**April 5 – Transportation Master Plan meeting** 4 p.m. City Councillors Rawlson King and Mathieu Fleury will co-host a public consultation on the City of Ottawa's Transportation Master Plan, specifically for Wards 12 (Rideau-Vanier) and 13 (Rideau-Rockcliffe).

**April 7–10 – Open House** at Chartwell New Edinburgh Square, 420 MacKay St. 1–6 p.m. [Chartwell.com](http://Chartwell.com) | [elsh@chartwell.com](mailto:elsh@chartwell.com). 343-882-4759. Drop in at any Chartwell retirement residence where you can look around and learn more about retirement living.

**April 16 – Easter Market** at the Rideau Sports Centre, 1 Donald St. 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

[rideausportscentre.com](http://rideausportscentre.com). Outdoor markets are returning to the Rideau Sports Centre. Visit website to confirm event.

**April 19 – NECA meeting** happening online. 7:30 p.m. All New Edinburgh residents are welcome to attend the board meeting of the New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA). Visit [newedinburgh.ca](http://newedinburgh.ca) for the meeting link and agenda.

**April 20 – Lecture on the Alexandra Bridge** happening online. 7 p.m. [heritageottawa.org](http://heritageottawa.org). Heritage Ottawa hosts part two in its series of lectures on the Alexandra Bridge: "Concerns and Challenges of the Alexandra Bridge: PSPC's Perspective." Officials with Public Services and Procurement Canada will address the concerns and risk mitigation measures that have been implemented to ensure safe operation of the 120-year-old bridge as well as the factors that led to the decision to replace it.

**April 22 – Park Clean-Up Day** meet at the New Edinburgh Fieldhouse, 203 Stanley Ave. 4–6 p.m.

NECA's Friends of the Park committee hosts a park clean-up day. Rain date: April 23, 10 a.m. Details, p. 13.

## MAY

**May 1 – Plant Sale** at the New Edinburgh Fieldhouse, 203 Stanley Ave. As of publishing, the Crichton Community Council's annual plant sale had not been confirmed. Visit [newedinburgh.ca](http://newedinburgh.ca) closer to the date for confirmation whether the event will take place.

**May 1 – IC4C virtual concert** happening online. 7 p.m. In Concert for Cambodia (IC4C) hosts a virtual spring concert on the theme "Music for Peace" featuring music by Chopin and Bach for piano and violin, as well as some traditional fiddle music. Details, p. 29.

**May 17 – NECA meeting** happening online. 7:30 p.m. All New Edinburgh residents are welcome to attend the board meeting of the New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA). Visit [newedinburgh.ca](http://newedinburgh.ca) for the meeting link and agenda.

**May 19–29 – Ottawa Children's Festival** at various locations. [ottawachildrensfestival.ca](http://ottawachildrensfestival.ca). The Ottawa Children's Festival de la jeunesse (OCF) returns with a festival of family-friendly programming taking place at LeBreton Flats Park, the Canadian War Museum, and at Arts Court. Details, p. 30.

## JUNE

**June 14 – CCC AGM** at a location to be confirmed. 7 p.m. The Crichton Community Council hosts its annual general meeting. All residents are welcome. All board positions will be vacant and need new volunteer members to fill roles. Contact: [CrichtonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com](mailto:CrichtonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com).

**June 21 – NECA meeting** happening online. 7:30 p.m. All New Edinburgh residents are welcome to attend the board meeting of the New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA). Visit [newedinburgh.ca](http://newedinburgh.ca) for meeting link and agenda.



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# Burgh Breezy Bits

DEADLINE: MAY 10  
newednews@hotmail.com

## Welcome

Charles Street neighbours welcome **Sue and John McNee** to New Edinburgh and wish them happy times in their new location. Sue and John can be seen in the lanes and park, walking their long-time canine pal **George**.



On Feb.11, **Robert Mundie** and **Nicholas Galambos** of Stanley Avenue added a Goldendoodle puppy named **Buttons** to their family. He is brother to **Tobi**, a female Goldendoodle who has had the run of the house for four years. Please welcome Buttons when you see him in the neighbourhood!

## Condolences

Condolences to **Paula Pincombe, Roland Legault** and their daughters **Louisa** and **Charlotte** of Noel Street on the passing of Paula's father **Bob Pincombe** on Feb. 15.

Deepest condolences to **Cathy McConkey, Bruce McLaurin** and family on the passing of Cathy's dad **Ken McConkey** on Jan. 16. Ken is also survived by **Rita**, his wife of 65 years.

## Miscellaneous

It was with great excitement that the **New Edinburgh Community Choir** held its first rehearsal in MacKay United Church's Memorial

Hall on Mar. 7. It was a wonderful evening, and everyone is now welcome, whatever their singing experience. We particularly invite male singers. The choir is offering a 10-week season, following public health guidelines, with vaccination certificates, masks to be worn at all times, and physical distancing. The cost is \$150 for the entire season, but people can pay a drop-in rate of \$20 per practice. Capacity is limited, so if you're interested, please contact us at [newechoir@gmail.com](mailto:newechoir@gmail.com).

An old leaf-chewer had a new name: what were colloquially known as **Gypsy Moths** have been re-named **Spongy Moths**. In March, the American and Canadian entomological societies have officially adapted the common name Spongy Moth for *Lymantria dispar dispar* (**LDD**). In French it is **Spongieuse**. The caterpillars will emerge in mid-April, so be prepared to wrap trees and to drown caterpillars as we did last spring.

The **Electric Street Gallery** hosts an art sale benefit for refugees from the war in Ukraine. The gallery's main artists have created sunflower-themed art (samples at right). Proceeds from the sale of each piece will go to United Nations High Commission for Refugees to support its work with the Ukrainian people. The benefit will run throughout April and May, and might be extended. Visit the gallery in-person at 299 Crichton St. on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Learn more at [electricstreet.art](http://electricstreet.art) or call 613-748-2008.



Pysanky by Susan MW Cartwright



Gold of Summers by Elisabeth Arbuckle



For Autumn by Clara Kim



After a six-year hiatus as cat owners, the **Leadlay** family adopted a pair of kittens **Jasmine** and **Basil** (aka Jaz and Baz) on Mar. 9. Born in August 2021, the littermates, originally from Almonte, Ont., have adjusted very well to their new home in Lowertown. They are cuddly, affectionate, playful and generally charm everyone they meet – including the vets!



Wheaton terrier puppy **Millie** makes her debut on Stanley Avenue this spring. Millie is an enchanting furball in perpetual motion, whose cheerful exuberance and affectionate nature are a boost to even the lowest spirits. Her owners **Lori** and **Craig** are thrilled by her arrival, following two long years since the death of their beloved Wheaton **Jack**.

**EDINBURGH**

## Community Park Cleanup

**Saturday, April 22**

**4-6 p.m. Meet at the fieldhouse**

Check [www.newedinburgh.ca](http://www.newedinburgh.ca) for details

New Sponsored by **NECA**

Porter Island

Rideau River